

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
August 13, 2012**

PRESENT: Michael J. Retzky, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman
David C. DiCicco, Member
Thomas M. Jacob, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

ABSENT: Andrea L. Shorthose, Member

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor
Cricket Neighbors: Heather Yountz, Dan Shapiro,
Sue Owen, Rachel Miller

The meeting convened at 6:02PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

- 1. Minutes of Meetings July 9, 2012:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2012 meeting. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Minutes of Meetings July 23, 2012: Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2012 meeting. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

- 2. Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey indicated the Town is planning some type of welcome home celebration for Olympic Gold medalist Aly Raisman. Specific details will be finalized in the next few days. The Greendale Trail tour was mentioned and Mr. Jacob noted he would like to tour the trail in the near future.
- 3. Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce stated the Pool and programs are winding down. The programs end on Thursday, August 16th and the Pool closes Friday, August 24th. She remarked about the great staff that have worked very hard over the summer at both the Pool and programs. There have been many raving fans and happy children. The Fall Brochure will be ready this week to go to the printer and will be up on the website as soon as possible. Registration will begin on September 4th. The final night of Arts in the Parks will be August 16th.

4. Discussion Items:

A. NSTAR Vegetation Management: Mr. Retzky noted that many residents attended the recent NSTAR public meeting to discuss the vegetation management program proposed by NSTAR. On August 16th State Representative Denise Garlick is hosting a meeting with residents to discuss the NSTAR plan. Mr. Retzky noted that when NSTAR is working at DeFazio, Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen will be involved to minimize any damage to the fields.

B. Community Preservation: Possible Projects under Recreation

Category: Ms. Carey shared a list of possible projects under the following headings: Board of Selectmen, Park and Recreation Commission, School Committee, Conservation Committee and Other. Mr. DiCicco would like to have the Newman Fields Project on the October Town Meeting warrant so the project could begin in the spring of 2013. Having the Newman Fields usable would help with the field shortages that would impact many user groups during the Hillside/Mitchell school renovations. The Board of Selectmen are meeting tomorrow night and will vote on putting the Greene's Field Project on the October Town Meeting warrant. The Newman project will have to wait until the May Town Meeting as more work must be done working with the Conservation Committee, School Committee and Board of Selectmen to create and review design and construction plans. Mr. DiCicco indicated this is his top priority project for Community Preservation funding. The Commissioners will review the list and prioritize their top 5 projects and email them to Ms. Carey.

C. Rail Trail Concept: Ms. Carey asked if the Commissioners would be in favor of the Rail Trail Concept from Needham Junction to Dover. The Commissioners in attendance are fully in favor of the Rail Trail Concept. Ms. Carey will report the Commissioners' support of the project to the Community Preservation Committee.

D. Projects with DPW: Ms. Carey indicated the Needham Soccer Club may need to use Walker Gordon Field while fields at DeFazio are being sodded. The Walker Gordon Field Project contracts have been signed by 2 of the 3 companies who have been awarded contracts. Pollard and Cricket Fields are two of the locations that have had a good deal of maintenance this summer and are looking very good for fall use.

E. Fall Field Scheduling: Ms. Carey is working on the Fall Field Schedule and it should be completed and distributed by the end of the week.

F. Rosemary Pool: Ms. Carey has met with the Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Public Facilities Construction Director Steve Popper to begin discussing the Rosemary Pool feasibility study. Ms. Carey is in the process of gathering some information for Mr. Popper and they will meet again in the near future. Ms.

Carey reported that the revenue collected through this past weekend is more than collected in all of 2011 at the pool. Attendance numbers are also close to surpassing the total from 2011.

G. Trails Projects: Ms. Peirce will be interviewing a potential Trail Steward on August 17th for the Carol Brewster Property.

H. Long Term Park Protection: Mr. Retzky indicated that he met with Mrs. Chaston, Ms. Carey and members of the Board of Selectmen to discuss long term protection of Cricket Field and the process to change the jurisdiction of Greene's Field from the Board of Selectmen to the Park and Recreation Commission. At the meeting the Board of Selectmen indicated that they want to look at the long term effects of changing land jurisdiction and are not ready to make any decisions at this time. They recognized the error of not including the Park and Recreation Commission in the conversation of building a Senior Center on Greene's Field. The Board of Selectmen has asked the Park and Recreation Commission to delay discussion of this topic in order to have more time to research the long term options.

5. Action Items:

A. Set Fall Program Fees: Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the Fall Program Fees as presented by the Director, Assistant Director and Recreation Supervisor. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the Fall Program Fees were approved. (See Appendix A)

B. Special Event Request: Booster Club Christmas Tree Sales: Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the Booster Club request for Christmas Tree Sales at Claxton in the quarry area. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Ms. Carey will review the start and end dates, requested hours and electricity use with the Booster Club prior to issuing their permit.

C. Special Event Request: Coldwell Banker: Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the special event request from Coldwell Banker to host a Client appreciation Barbeque on September 30, 2012 at Claxton Playground and Field #2 from 2:00-7:00PM. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

D. Special Event Request: NHS Catholic League Boys Varsity Soccer Challenge: Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the special event request for the NHS Catholic League Boys Varsity Soccer Challenge at DeFazio Multipurpose Fields on September 29, 2012 from 2:00- 7:00PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

E. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket): Mr. Retzky mentioned the Spotlight video clip on the Needham Cable news channel featuring Superintendent of Schools Dan Gutekanst, School Committee Chairwoman Heidi Black, PPBC Chairman George Kent and Architect from Dore & Whittier Associates Don Walter discussing the Hillside/Mitchell projects. There is a link to the video clip on the School Department's website. This topic will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

6. **Topics for future Agendas:** Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket)
Basketball Courts in Town
Greendale Trail property and tour
7. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:45PM. The Commissioners proceeded to Rosemary Pool to attend the Summer Staff appreciation party.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director

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Fee Recommendations
 Submitted August 13, 2012
 Fall 2012
 Winter Spring 2013

APPENDIX A

| Program Name | Fall 2011 Winter/Spring 2012 | Recommended Fall 2012 Winter/Spring 2013 | Number of classes | General Fund Deposit |
|---|---|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Ballet | \$60.00 | \$60.00 | 8 | \$5.00 |
| Itsy Bitsy Arts | \$60.00 | \$60.00 | 8 | \$5.00 |
| Kids Night Out | \$16 per child | \$16 per child | 1 | N/A |
| Ice Skating Lessons | \$55 All levels | \$55 All levels | 8 | \$5.00 |
| Down on the Farm | New this year | \$50.00 | 5 | \$5.00 |
| Youth Tennis Lessons | \$60.00 | \$60.00 | 5 | \$5.00 |
| Hikes for tykes | New this Year | \$5.00 | 1 | N/A |
| Owling Family Fun | New this year | \$5 per family still waiting to hear from Mr. Dancy to finalize. | 1 | N/A |
| Turkey Hunt | \$3.00 | \$3.00 | 1 | N/A |
| Spooky Walk | \$3.00 | \$3.00 | 1 | N/A |
| Nashoba Valley Ski & Snowboard | \$405 w/lessons \$375 w/o lessons | \$405 w/lessons \$375 w/o lessons | 6 | \$5.00 |
| Adult Golf Lessons | \$110.00 | \$110.00 | 5 | \$5.00 |
| Adult Tennis Lessons | \$75.00 | \$75.00 | 5 | \$5.00 |
| Double the Fun Tennis | \$75.00 | \$75.00 | 5 | \$5.00 |
| Adult Badminton | \$60 Season | \$60 Season | 25 | \$5.00 |
| Adult Basketball | \$60 Season | \$60 Season | 28 | \$5.00 |
| Adult Volleyball | \$20 Season | \$20 Season | 28 | \$20.00 |
| Senior Exercise | \$25.00 | \$25.00 | 9 | \$5.00 |
| Senior Walking Club | \$30.00 | \$30.00 | 77 | \$5.00 |
| Senior Yoga | \$25.00 | \$25.00 | 9 | \$5.00 |