

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
September 10, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Michael J. Retzky, Chairman  
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman  
Thomas M. Jacob, Member  
Andrea L. Shorthose, Member  
Patricia M. Carey, Director  
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

**ABSENT:** David C. DiCicco, Member

**GUESTS:** Bill Monahan, Needham Little League  
Tom Connors, Friends of Needham Rail Trail Greenway  
Residents: Artie Crocker, John DioDato, Michael Miller  
Rachel Miller, Dan Shapiro, Sue Owen, Carol Landry  
Stefanoni, Alan Fanger

The meeting convened at 7:00PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meetings August 27, 2012:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2012 meeting. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey commented on the recent vandalism reported at some of the fields and at the Camp Property. She mentioned adding the Camp Property building as a topic for a future agenda. Mrs. Chaston asked about how to keep the High Rock summit at the Town Forest clear of trash. Ms. Peirce noted the trail stewards are doing as much as they can. She also noted that the police have been contacted letting them know about the recent remains of fires and beer cans in the Town Forest. Ms. Carey noted that there are community groups that look for clean up projects and the High Rock is always the first location for clean up on the list.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported she will attend the NYSAC meeting tomorrow morning and will help out at the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter student social event after the Friday night football game on 9/14/12. She will be meeting with student Ben Kirchman on 9/13/12 to discuss an Eagle Scout project at the Pollard Quick Start courts. He is interested in building some benches, a possible storage box for tennis equipment and some plantings. Fall tennis programs started this week with good registration numbers. Cancelled programs due to low registration include: Down on the Farm, Double the Fun and Adult Golf Lessons. The

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Needham Youth Resource Network is meeting on 9/12/12 to finalize the mission of the group. The YRN was created to provide a forum for concerned youth supporters to present specific cases in which greater assistance for a young person is needed. Needham groups involved in the YRN include the Needham Youth Services, Health Department, Housing Authority, Public Schools, YMCA, and Clergy Association.

**4. Discussion Items:**

**A. Friends of Needham Woods and Waters Concept for Rosemary Trail:** Mr. Sam Bass Warner called and cancelled due to an unexpected conflict. He will present at a future meeting.

**B. Needham Bikes Organization/ Rte 128 Off-Ramp Concerns:** Ms. Carey reviewed the memo from Tad Staley regarding a bike ramp at the new Route 128 Add- a- Lane project. Needham resident Artie Crocker noted the unused track in Needham that goes to Newton and he would like to find a way to get people off the roads and on to trails to ease congestion. Tom Connors, a resident, introduced his new organization, Friends of Needham Rail Trail Greenway and noted how he would like to extend the rail trail from Needham Heights to Newton. He also talked about Complete Streets and how to incorporate bike lanes to offer safe paths of travel.

**C. Community Preservation Update:** Mr. Retzky updated the Commissioners on the CPC summit. The groups discussed the initial priority list that the Commission created. There were questions about procedure and the timing of the projects. Mr. Retzky noted that the School Committee Chair Heidi Black said the School Committee is going to look at all options before making any decisions. Mrs. Chaston indicated there would be another meeting to continue the discussion. Ms. Carey noted the Greene's Field Renovation project will be discussed at the next CPC meeting. The Greene's Field Committee is hoping to raise approximately \$50,000 towards the playground equipment. If the request for CPC funds is presented at the Fall Town Meeting installation could possibly begin in the spring of 2013.

**D. DPW Webster Street Renovations:** Ms. Carey reported she has met with DPW staff to discuss the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the Webster Street road project which encompasses West Street to Highland Ave. The earlier discussions with the Commission included the possibility of spaces that allowed vehicles to back-in, but safety concerns have changed the option back to parallel parking. DPW is meeting with the Webster Street neighbors for a second time, and will present the final design.

**E. Projects with DPW:** Ms. Carey shared a compliment to the Parks and Forestry Department from a synthetic turf groomer for taking excellent care of the

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synthetic turf. The sod project at DeFazio began on Healy and Warner Fields. The storage building for DeFazio is out to bid. The Walker Gordon renovation project has some contracts signed, but some additional funding will be needed to sign the final contract. The goose patrol program implemented has been effective keeping the Canada geese off the field. Mrs. Chaston asked if the recycling bins are being used at the fields. Ms. Carey indicated the bins at DeFazio and Memorial did not seem to be widely used, no matter where they are located.

**F. Fall Field Scheduling:** High School athletics seem to be following the procedure to work out requesting extra time with the youth sports groups. Although it can be difficult, it is necessary to work together to make field allocation equitable for all. Fall has the added dilemma of shorter hours of day light in the early evening. Ms. Carey announced that the Traffic Management Advisory Committee recommended no parking on at least one side of High Rock Street. The recommendation will go to the Board of Selectmen for review, and she will get the official information.

**G. Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey has discussed the Rosemary RFP with Public Facilities staff member Hank Haff.

**5. Action Items:**

**A. Special Event Request: Geocache Halloween Event:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the Halloween Needham at Night Geocache Event to be held at the Town Forest on October 27, 2012 from 8:00-10:00PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

**B. Special Event Request: Boy Scout Camporee:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve a request from Boy Scout Troop 13 to use the Horsford Pond parking lot for the overnight Camporee at the Boy Scout Property located in the Town Forest on Saturday, September 22- Sunday, September 23, 2012. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

**C. Special Event Request: Soccer Club:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the Needham Soccer Club 300<sup>th</sup> Jamboree to be held at the DeFazio synthetic turf fields on October 13, 2012 from 1:00-9:00PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

**D. Special Event Request Addition: Booster Club Christmas Tree Sales:** Ms. Carey shared an email from the Needham High School Booster Club indicating to increase the number of volunteers to help with the Christmas Tree sales they have enlisted the help of the Village Club. The Booster Club requested permission to post a 3 x 4 white sign with the Village Club logo next to the NHS Booster Club sign. Ms. Carey indicated the sign will need to be placed as not to block any traffic. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the Needham High School Booster

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Club request to post a Village Club sign next to the Booster Club sign at Claxton Field near the Christmas tree sales area. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

**E. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket):** Mr. Retzky discussed the FAQ information on the School Committee website. Cricket neighbor Sue Owen indicated she has heard that the Statement of Interest will be submitted to the state in January and the Hillside and Mitchell projects will not be submitted together but they will be submitted separately. She also reported the petition drive to “Save Cricket Field” has collected over 1200 signatures indicating a lot of town support. She asked if the neighborhood could use the field house bathrooms for the block party. Ms. Carey indicated the bathrooms are not available for use the day of the block party. Sue Owen asked if it would be possible to rent a porta-potty. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve placement of a porta-potty next to the field house for the block party to be held on 9/16. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved. The porta-potty will be delivered on 9/15 and removed on 9/17. Carol Landry Stefanoni asked why the Park and Recreation Commissioners have not taken a formal vote to protect Cricket Field. Mr. Retzky stated that the Park and Recreation Commissioners are unified in their support to keep Cricket as a park and the School Committee is well aware of their position. Mr. Jacob noted the Commission would prefer to follow proper procedure. To tell the School Committee the Commission is not giving up Cricket Field when they have not asked the Commission to give it up seems improper. Alan Fanger stated he has donated money to create a non profit called “Save Cricket Field”. He noted that nothing the Park and Recreation Commission has done so far has deterred the School Committee from considering Cricket Field. Mr. Retzky assured the group that he has personally spoken to many of the School Committee members and they are well aware that the Commission does not want to have a school built on Cricket Field. Tom Connors suggested presenting a citizens petition to take Cricket Field off the list of pre-feasibility options. Artie Crocker asked if the Commission has the authority to say no to a proposal to have a school built on Cricket Field. Mr. Retzky stated the Park and Recreation Commission has jurisdiction over Cricket field and does have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Town. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

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6. **Topics for future Agendas:** Camp Property Building
7. **Adjournment:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55PM.  
Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP  
Assistant Director