

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 9, 2012**

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

**ABSENT:** Andrea L. Shorthose, Member

**GUESTS:** Representative Denise Garlick  
Bob Cohen, Resident  
John and Darlene DioDato, Residents

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the Selectmen's Chambers located at the Town Hall.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of September 24, 2012:** Discussed later in the meeting.
2. **Director's Report:** Discussed later in the meeting.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Discussed later in the meeting.
4. **Discussion Items:**
  - A. **Guest: Representative Denise Garlick:** Representative Garlick updated the Commission on the new regulations for the Community Preservation Act. On October 15, 2012 the Department of Revenue will release the rate of dispersing \$25 million for cities and towns participating in the CPA. The additional \$25 million in funding from the state surplus will substantially increase the statewide trust fund used to match locally raised CPA funds. Currently 148 communities are enrolled in the CPA program. With the recent legislative change to allow CPA funds to be used to for capital improvements to parks, playgrounds and athletic fields it has opened up new opportunities to improve existing facilities. Representative Garlick noted the Needham Town Hall renovation project was the largest CPA project in Massachusetts. She announced a matching grant from DCR for \$30,000 will assist the Town of Needham to inventory the street trees in town. Using GPS technology the project will be able to identify the location, type of tree and condition which will help to assist in prioritizing maintenance of trees. She also reviewed the recent emergency legislation that was passed with the help of the Department of Public Utilities to stop NSTAR from cutting down healthy trees along the power lines. The Town Manager, Town Department Managers, local businesses and property owners joined together for a public meeting presenting a unified group working to protect the trees from being cut. Representative Garlick contacted everyone she could to express her concern over the trees being cut and the initial lack of communication from NSTAR. The policy they were following was not appropriate for a suburban environment. NSTAR pulled the tree clearing equipment from Needham and they are reviewing their policies which will hopefully take a more moderate approach to clearing the area around the electrical wires. Ms. Carey thanked Representative Garlick for all her help communicating with the DEP

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regarding Rosemary Lake. Representative Garlick offered the resources of her office to anyone needing help maneuvering state agencies. Mr. Retzky thanked Representative Garlick for her time and her support of Park and Recreation initiatives.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of September 24, 2012:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2012 meeting. Mr. Jacob noted on page 3, the minutes should be amended to read: *Mr. Jacob has been approached by a Finance Committee member who does not believe a school should be rebuilt at Hillside based on his concerns for environmental issues, but the Commission agreed that more information needs to be provided for that type of decision to be made by the Town.* Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the amended minutes were approved.
2. **Director's Report:** While Ms. Carey is at the NRPA Conference she will help to facilitate a session called "Building Citizens Advocates through Parks and Recreation". She thanked the Jacob family for purchasing the Park and Recreation Adirondack chair at the auction. The chair is located at the PSAB in front of the Park and Recreation office. Ms. Carey shared a photo of the new sign to be installed at DeFazio Field to replace the one that is in disrepair.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the following updates:
  - Ms. Peirce led a Parent Talk sponsored Hikes for Tykes at Ridge Hill on September 22, 2012 and out of 10 registered only 3 attended.
  - The Hikes for Tykes scheduled on October 11<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to low registration.
  - October 6<sup>th</sup> she represented the Bay Colony Rail Trail at the Harvest Fair. Many people expressed interest and support of the Rail Trail and contributed to the donation jar.
  - Shared information about the Town Wide Clean Up and the Trail sign installation event both to be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Chaston is recruiting members of the Exchange Club to assist with the clean up.
  - Walked the Town Forest Trails on October 4<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the trail sign installation event.
  - The Spooky Walk will be held on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Park and Recreation Department will have a table handing out Halloween trinkets and program information to families. The Commissioners were asked to attend the event.
  - Shared the new QR code  used to assist registration for program using an i Phone.
  - October 16<sup>th</sup> is the Senior Golf Program luncheon at the Needham Golf Club.
  - October 17<sup>th</sup> attending the Moving Together Workshop sponsored by the Department of Transportation in Boston.
  - The Trails Advisory Committee will meet on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM.
4. **Discussion Items:**
  - A. **Guest: Representative Denise Garlick:** Discussed earlier in the meeting.
  - B. **Special Town Meeting:** At the last Board of Selectmen's meeting the members voted to support most of the warrant items. They did not vote on the 2 citizen petitions but

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did not support either of the petitions. They did not vote on the CPC articles but will vote after the CPC Public Hearing on October 10, 2012.

- C. Community Preservation Current and Future Proposals:** Ms. Carey reviewed the Greene's Field renovation including scope of work and the breakdown of funding requests. Currently the School Committee is looking at projects at the Newman Fields and the Emery Grover Building. Ms. Carey and Mr. Retzky met with members of the School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools to share their thoughts on how to move the Newman Field renovation project forward using CPC funds. Ms. Carey will complete a draft application for CPC to be shared with the School Committee. In addition she will request a letter of support from the School Committee for the project. Ms. Carey noted that the Open Space Plan is unfinished and could possibly seek CPC funding to complete it.
- D. FY'14 Capital and Operating Budgets:** No discussion.
- E. Trails Projects:** Ms. Peirce reported she and Conservation Commission Director Patty Barry are working with Holden Barth on a Ridge Hill trails project at for his Eagle Scout project. Hunting season alert information will be posted at all trails.
- F. Projects with DPW:** Ms. Carey reported the Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen is working hard to get Conroy and Healy Fields open as soon as possible since new sod was installed.
- G. Field Maintenance Planning:** Ms. Carey reviewed the packets from the Parks and Forestry Superintendent, Ed Olsen. Mr. Olsen is concerned about the grubs at fields and would like to be proactive using a mild product to help rid the fields of the grubs in the early stage. The schedule of product use is listed in the packet. Ms. Carey reviewed 2 articles included in the Commission packet on safe fields and overuse and compaction at property located in the nations Capital.
- H. Joint Field Scheduling Policy:** To be discussed at a future meeting.
- I. Rosemary Pool:** Hank Haff from the Public Facilities Department is working on the draft for the Rosemary Feasibility Study. The Commissioners are anxious to see the completed draft.

**5. Action Items**

- A. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study:** The Commissioners discussed the op-ed letter written by School Committee Chair person Heidi Black that was in the recent issue of the Needham Times regarding the Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study. They also discussed the PPBC meeting minutes regarding the remediation of the Hillside property.
- B. Special Town Meeting Articles:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to support Special Town meeting articles 11 & 12. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the motion was

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approved. Mr. Jacob made a motion to support line 25c in article 4 to support funding for the Walker Gordon field renovation. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

- C. Special Event Request: Relay for Life:** Ms. Carey reviewed the special event request to host the Relay for Life event on the weekend of May 18 & 19, 2013 at the Newman School Field. Mr. Jacob made a motion to reserve the use of the Newman School Field on May 18 & 19, 2013 as described on the special event request pending clarification of specific details with the Park and Recreation Director. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion to reserve the location and date pending clarification of specific details with the Park and Recreation Director and the motion was approved.

- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:**
- CPA Updates
  - Hillside/Mitchell pre-Feasibility Study
  - Parks and Forestry Superintendent Report

- 7. Executive Session: Exception 6:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion at 9:00PM for the Park and Recreation Commission to move into Executive Session under Exception 6 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation. The Commission will not return to open meeting following the Executive Session. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion. Mr. Retzky asked for a roll call vote. Mrs. Chaston, Mr. DiCicco, Mr. Jacob and Mr. Retzky voted in favor of moving into Executive Session and the regular meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM and Mr. Retzky called the Executive Session meeting into order. *Minutes recorded separately.*

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP  
Assistant Director