

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

**Minutes of Meeting
April 22, 2013**

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

ABSENT: Andrea L. Shorthose, Member

GUESTS: Janet Jankowiak, YMCA
Bob Cohen, Resident
Dan Shapiro, Cricket Field Neighbor

The meeting convened at 7:10PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to amend the minutes of the April 8, 2013 meeting to include that he and Ms. Shorthose left the meeting after the meeting was suspended for the Commissioners to attend the Permanent Public Building Committee meeting at 8:32. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the April 8, 2013 meeting. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the amended minutes of the April 8, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Minutes of Re-Organization Meeting: Mr. DiCicco made a motion to approve the minutes of the Re-Organization meeting on April 8, 2013. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Due to the Greene's Field renovation project, the YMCA is moving their summer program to Carter Methodist Church and have requested to use Avery Field for outdoor activities. Mr. Retzky asked if there are any concerns with the YMCA using Avery Field for summer programs. Ms. Carey has recommended the YMCA communicate with the neighbors about the summer use of the field as this field is typically used after school, weekends and evenings in the spring and not for all-day programs.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the following:
 - The Summer Program Brochure will be sent to the printer this week. It will also be posted online. Registration will begin on Tuesday, May 7th.
 - Still in need of lifeguard applicants.
 - Ms. Peirce and Recreation Supervisor Nicole DiCicco attended the MRPA Conference.
 - Ms. Peirce and Recreation Supervisor Nicole DiCicco attended the icanhelpt training. The information will be shared with summer staff members during training.

Needham Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes of Meeting

April 22, 2013

Page 2 of 4

- Attended the Youth Resource Network meeting on April 3rd.
- Attended the Needham Coalition for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Community Prevention Forum on March 14th.
- Community Gardens information has been sent to former gardeners. There will be some new gardeners this year.
- Working with Ben Kerrigan on developing a “Learn to Skateboard” program that we hope to launch this summer.

4. Discussion Items:

A. Town Meeting Preparation: Ms. Carey announced April 29th will be the League of Women Voters Informational meeting. Warrant articles relevant to the Commission are the budget and Community Preservation projects. Ms. Carey will create a brief overview of the CPC projects and other topics for Town Meeting for the Commissioners prior to April 29th.

B. Camp Property: Building and Encroachment Issue: Ms. Carey shared an email from the Conservation Commission Chair Lisa Standley to Sam Bass Warner regarding the Camp Property. Mr. Warner had suggested some changes to how wetland permitting is handled on property adjacent to the camp property. At the March 11th meeting the Commissioners approved 4 trees to be taken down at the request of a homeowner on Armen Way under the oversight of the Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen. Unfortunately the trees were removed without notifying the Parks and Forestry Superintendent and an additional tree was taken down without the 200 foot riverfront area, requiring approval of the Conservation Commission.. DPW Engineering will mark the property boundary so that conversations can continue with the homeowners regarding restoration.

C. Rosemary Pool: Ms. Carey reported that Rosemary Lake has started to drain. Once the water level is down, the pool will be cleaned and painted.. Weston and Sampson spent a morning at the pool gathering information for the on-going study and will return during the pool draining to gather additional information for the Rosemary Pool Feasibility Study.

D. Community Preservation Proposals: Ms. Carey reported that a CPC member will be in the rooms at the League of Women Voters Informational evening in case there are any questions regarding the proposed projects.

E. MWRA- Sudbury Aqueduct: Ms. Carey reported there is still more research that needs to be done to confirm if the Department of Conservation and Recreation owns 2 parcels along the Aqueduct. Ms. Peirce is checking with the Assessors Department to identify property owners along the Aqueduct.

F. Proposed Rail Trail- Southern Section: Ms. Carey reported that Bay Colony Rail Trail Association with Fay, Spofford and Thorndike will present the feasibility findings at the April 23rd Board of Selectmen’s meeting. There will be questions regarding whether to move forward with the lease with the MBTA and to determine whether it is necessary to purchase the insurance. Currently the challenge is denoting where the lease will begin. The MBTA recently indicated they want the rail trail to begin near High

Needham Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes of Meeting

April 22, 2013

Page 3 of 4

Rock Street and not at the Needham Junction as originally discussed. The MBTA would like to retain the area from the Junction to High Rock Street, keeping it available for train turnarounds, laydown area and repairs. Representative Denise Garlick is communicating with NSTAR which has towers and equipment located along the route. FS&T reported the Charles River Bridge is not sound and will need to be replaced or renovated as part of the project. At this time Dover is unsure if they will request a lease including the bridge. On April 24th there will be a public meeting where FS&T will present the findings from the feasibility study and get more input from the public on this project.

G. Greene's Field Project: The Greene's Field Playground Committee raised more than \$180,000 for playground equipment. Ms. Carey shared the playground design concept. The Exchange Club approved a donation of \$20,000 for a shade structure.

H. Trail Projects: Ms. Peirce reported the first Annual Trail Steward meeting was held on April 9th. It was an opportunity for the stewards to meet each other, to share information, and view photos taken over the year of their work. The Disability Commission approved the other Power Driven Mobility Device draft policy.

Conservation Commission Director Patty Barry and Ms. Peirce met with the carpentry staff from the Public Facilities Department to discuss building trail kiosk units. The kiosk includes the pressure treated wood frame, a shingled roof, a plexi glass hinged cover and a mailbox for informational brochures. The total cost to build a kiosk is \$518 each. Upcoming Eagle Scout Projects:

Jack Gallagher- Mitchell Woods- kiosk, benches, trail clearing;

Holden Barth- Charles River Trail -Trail Clearing

Alex Caufield - Ridge Hill -Building and installing blue bird boxes.

Ms. Peirce visited the Rosemary Trail to see the Camp Property building damage. The roof over the patio was torn down and there were lots of remnants of a party inside the building. The next Trails Advisory Group Meeting will take place on May 6th.

I. Spring/Summer Field Scheduling: Ms. Carey reported parking issues at different field locations have been worked out. She is working with the Needham Soccer Club and Girls' Lacrosse to work out scheduling issues. She also noted that she was interviewed for National Recreation and Parks Association magazine on the topic of field use philosophical questions. This coming Sunday, April 28th is Needham Baseball and Softball Opening Day at DeFazio Park. The Walker Gordon renovation project is moving along very well.

J. Harold J. A. Street, III Trust: Mr. Jacob suggested using some of the donation to purchase amenities for trails such as a Trex or Trex-like products to build the trail kiosks. Although Trex may be more expensive, the product would last much longer than pressure treated wood kiosks. Ms. Peirce and Ms. Carey will bring up this idea at the next Trails Advisory Committee Meeting.

5. Action Items

A. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket): Ms. Carey noted there has not been any news on the Statement of Interest submitted to the State by the School Committee. Mr. Shapiro indicated that the "Save Cricket Field Group" is not publicly supporting the northern section of the proposed Tail Trail Greenway.

Needham Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes of Meeting

April 22, 2013

Page 4 of 4

B. Special Event Request: Mass Premiere Soccer: Mr. Jacob made a motion to deny the request from Mass Premiere Soccer to host a Soccer Tournament in Needham. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the motion to deny the request was approved unanimously.

C. Special Event Request: Norfolk Lodge AF & AF: Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the request from the Norfolk Lodge AF&AF to host a picnic at Claxton Field on August 10th. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Carey will add to the approval the need to have controlled music and grill safety practices.

D. Special Event Request: Law Offices of David A. Camiel: Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the request from the Law Offices of David Camiel to host a softball game at Claxton field on June 20th. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

E. May Meeting Dates: Next meetings:
Monday, May 6, 2013 Town Hall 6:00PM prior to Town Meeting, Room location TBA.
Tuesday, May 21st at 7:00PM, Room location TBA.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Walker Gordon Renovation Project

7. Adjournment: Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director