

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

**Minutes of Meeting
July 8, 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 Board Member
Katy Dirks, Needham Community Center Committee
JoAnne Ochalla, Needham Community Center Committee
Dan Shapiro, Cricket Neighbor

The meeting convened at 7:35PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2013 meeting. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the minutes from the June 10, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey shared information regarding the recently implemented water ban in Needham. The Town Manager has indicated that it appears that fundraising car washes are not permitted. A public hearing on the ban will be held by the Board of Selectmen next week. Mr. Retzky thanked Mrs. Chaston, Ms. Carey and Ms. Peirce for all the efforts to make the Needham 4th of July events very successful.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the following:
 - Out of 38 possible slots for individual swim lessons 36 slots are filled.
 - Program registrations numbers are good with a few programs full many weeks.
 - Children's Theatre begins tomorrow and Arts in the Parks begins on Thursday, July 11th.
 - Adult tennis, adult golf and junior golf program all begin tomorrow with great registration numbers.
 - Daily attendance at Rosemary Pool has been very good due to the hot weather.
 - July 4th admission was free and it was very crowded. The swimming races were well attended.
 - Interviewed by the Needham Channel at Rosemary Pool to be aired on July 11th.
 - Ice cream sales are steady.
 - Planning for the fall programs has begun.

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4. Discussion Items:

A. Harold J. A. Street, III Trust: To be discussed at a future meeting.

B. Rosemary Pool Study Status: Ms. Carey announced the public meeting to be held on July 22 in Powers Hall to discuss the future of Rosemary Pool with feedback from the public. Needham Cable Television is scheduled to record the meeting. Weston and Sampson is creating a survey that will be available in the near future. Mrs. Dirks from the Needham Community Center Committee has created a draft survey and will share it with the Commission. Mr. Retzky noted that they could share the draft survey with the understanding that Weston and Sampson will need to stay within the 4 corners of the study when creating the survey. Once Ms. Carey receives the survey from Weston and Sampson she will forward it to the Needham Community Center Committee to get it out to their mailing list. Mrs. Dirks suggested the Needham Community Center Committee create a follow up survey to be sent in 6 months.

C. Downtown Streetscape Survey: There was no update given.

D. Spring /Summer Fields: Ms. Carey noted the high heat and the newly implemented water ban has been hard on the fields. She reported irrigation is currently running in the evenings. Cricket # 2 has recently been sodded and needs a lot of water. Cricket # 1 held up very well during a very busy spring. Parks and Forestry has schedule a fall project to replace the fence at Avery Field with a row of trees. Claxton projects are being estimated and will be prepared for bid packets in the new few weeks, including backstop replacements, and improvements to player bench areas. The overseeding projects at Claxton have been successful. Ms. Carey noted that sand based fields struggle without watering during the day. Mrs. Chaston asked if the Commissioners should speak to the Selectmen about providing enough water for the fields. Ms. Carey suggested she learn more about the impacts on the athletic fields prior to reaching out to the Board of Selectmen.

E. Field Allocation: Nothing Presented.

F. Proposed Rail Trail- Southern Section: Ms. Carey and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick will schedule a meeting with Bay Colony Rail Trail to review what needs to be discussed at the meeting with the MBTA. Ms. Carey also indicated the need to have a conversation with Representative Denise Garlick about a possible easement on the NSTAR property near the Junction. The Bay Colony Rail Trail group has begun fundraising.

G. Trail Projects: Ms. Peirce reported that 10 Project Van volunteers are scheduled to help with trail clearing and trash pick up at the Rosemary Trail on July 10th. The Outdoor Living Program is spending every Tuesday at the Rosemary Trail fishing, canoeing and hiking.

H. Greene's Field: Fencing has been installed on the Warren Street side of the field. Construction fencing will be installed soon and the project will begin as soon as all the contracts are signed.

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- I. Walker-Gordon Project:** Ms. Carey reported the final playground safety surfacing will be laid down this week. The parking lot is completed. The fencing is close to being completed. The expected field opening for permitted use will be the spring of 2014.
- 5. Action Items**
- A. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket):** Ms. Carey announced Marianne Cooley has been elected to the Board of Selectmen and she will resign from her position on the School Committee. Cricket neighbor Dan Shapiro stated his hope that no additional funding will be spent by the School Committee on the study of Cricket Field as they do not have the support of the Park and Recreation Commission.
- B. Special Event Request: Charles River Center:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve a request from the Charles River Center to host the Ellie Bloom Olympics on Saturday, September 21, 2013 using the Track, Conroy Field and the Carleton Pavilion at DeFazio Park. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- C. Request: Needham Baseball and Softball:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the request from Needham Baseball and Softball to place a portable toilet at Mills Field. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Mrs. Chaston asked about the funds that were available for building bathrooms at Mills Field. Ms. Carey stated the cash capital funding was not enough to renovate the bathrooms so the Town Manager requested that the restroom project be incorporated into the Mills Field improvement project that has recently received funds for design. Mrs. Chaston would like to put this on as a discussion item for a future meeting. Ms. Carey will get information from the Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick on why the funding was transferred when it was allocated for the Mills bathrooms.
- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:** Mills Field Bathrooms
Current allocation of money and transfer of funds
- 7. Adjournment:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:33PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director