

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
March 10, 2014**

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

**GUESTS:** Janet Jankowiak, YMCA Board Member  
Connie Kaufman, YMCA Board Member  
Katy Dirks, Needham Community Center  
Jo-Anne Ochalla, Needham Community Center

Mr. Retzky called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting: February, 24, 2014:** Mr. DiCicco made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014 meeting. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and it was passed.
- 2. Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey would like to recognize Roy Nutile in the Summer 2014 Arts in the Parks weekly Program Booklet, Summer Brochure and press releases. Mr. Nutile was instrumental in creating the Arts in the Parks outdoor concert series over 35 years ago. The Roy Nutile Orchestra and subsequently the Tom Nutile Big Band led by Roy's son Tom have played the season opening concert in Needham every summer. Mr. Nutile passed away a few weeks ago.
- 3. Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the following:
  - o Arturo Perez a Pollard 8<sup>th</sup> grade student created flyers which he will post around Town and at Pollard to advertise the upcoming Town-wide Trash and Trail Clean Up events to be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>. He will volunteer 9 hours to go towards his community service obligation for school.
  - o Ms. Peirce and Ms. DiCicco will attend the Annual Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association Conference on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Sturbridge.
  - o Many of the winter sessions of programs are winding down and the spring sessions will be starting up in the next few weeks.
  - o The Youth Resource Network sub committee is in the process of creating a welcoming program for new families moving into Needham. The name of the program is *Entering Needham: Welcoming Families and Building Community*. The goal is to have the Needham Community Council oversee the program

which will include recruiting, welcoming, interviewing and training volunteers interested in helping new families.

- o Interviews for summer staff began today.
- o Working on the summer program brochure, pool brochure, swim lesson brochure, and volunteer brochure
- o Tennis badges went on sale March 1 and pool badges go on sale April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### 4. Discussion Items

- a. **Rosemary Pool:** Mr. Retzky noted some scheduling conflicts on April 14<sup>th</sup> (Passover) and April 28<sup>th</sup> (League of Women Voters Meeting). The Rosemary Pool Public Meeting will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in Powers Hall. There will be no Commission meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> (Patriot's Day). It was tentatively decided to hold the meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> early before the League of Women Voters meeting. The Commission discussed the options, and reached a consensus that Option 1 with no pool and Option 2 which is a much smaller pool do not currently seem to be the optimal choices. Mr. Toolan asked if increasing programming within the building would alter the department's operating costs. Ms. Carey indicated that it depended on the size of the building, but it isn't likely that additional office staff would be needed, and most program costs would be covered through fees. Mr. Toolan also expressed a desire to make the site available for year-round activities, to maximize the investment in the property. Mr. DiCicco noted that there could be costs savings by building the pool in the current location, but Mr. Retzky expressed concern with building within the lake. Mrs. Chaston asked for additional information on square footage of the building space. Her preference is to build as large a pool as can be afforded. Mr. Jacob noted that he would like to consider the pool in Option 3 or Option 4, with the more flexible building use from Option 4. Katy Dirks, Needham Community Center Committee member suggested an Option 3 sized pool on the Option 4 site. She believes looking at the different options that may be interchangeable could help get to an ideal configuration. Jo-Anne Ochalla, Needham Community Center member stated that she hopes the Park and Recreation Commission will ask for what they deem is the ideal project and look for collaborative opportunities for funding. The Commission will start to put together information to get feedback from residents at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- b. **School Feasibility Study:** The School Committee submitted information to the MSBA regarding the Hillside and Pollard Schools. There is no additional information.
- c. **Town-Wide Facilities Study:** Ms. Carey reported there will be a working group meeting this week. Mrs. Chaston and Mr. Toolan will be meeting this week with representatives of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Conservation Commission to talk about Ridge Hill and the Nike Site.
- d. **Trail Projects:** Ms. Peirce reported that she is working with the Needham Science Center on an event for Earth Week called Eyes on the Owls to be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Trail Steward Maury Eldridge will present photographs he has taken of Needham

wildlife. The Science Center staff will lead walks in the Eastman Conservation Area to look for owls. On March 1<sup>st</sup> the Conservation Commission held the first Saturday of the month walk at Ridge Hill. Approximately 7 people walked the Muir Path and Field View trails at Ridge Hill and learned about vernal pools. Ms. Peirce visited the High School Habitat for Humanity Club on March 6<sup>th</sup> to talk about the Trail Clean Up Day on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 30 students will attend and help with the trail clean up at the Rosemary Trail.

- e. **Harold J. A. Street, III Trust:** Ms. Peirce will get the dimensions of the trail kiosks to Mr. DiCicco. Mr. Toolan will get quotes for the Big Belly Compactors and Ms. Carey will get feedback from the DPW on the use of the Big Belly. Ms. Carey indicated she would like to allocate about \$10,000 from the Trust to complete many of the unfinished trail projects throughout the Town.
- f. **Spring/Summer Field Scheduling:** Ms. Carey announced the field schedule for spring and summer is very close to completion. It will be on-line in March.
- g. **FY'15 Operating/Capital Budgets:** No Update.

**5. Action Items**

- a. **Special Event Request: New England Orienteering Club:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the request from the New England Orienteering Club to host an Orienteering Event on April 13, 2014 at the Needham Town Forest from 10:00AM-2:00PM. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**6. Topics for Future Agendas:** Finalized upcoming meeting dates:

Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> Rosemary Pool Public Meeting, Powers Hall  
Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

- 7. **Adjournment:** Mr. Toolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP  
Assistant Director