

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

**Minutes of Meeting
January 28, 2008**

PRESENT: Christopher R. Dollase, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chair
William R. Dermody, Member
Brian S. Nadler, Member
Philip V. Robey, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, Resident

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

1. **Minutes of Meeting January 14, 2008:** Mr. Robey made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2008 meeting. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the minutes from the January 14, 2008 meeting were approved. Mr. Nadler abstained from the vote.
2. **Financial Report:** Ms. Carey reviewed the Financial Report.
3. **Correspondence**
 - A. **Planning Board Hearing: High Rock Parking:** Ms. Carey will attend the next Planning Board meeting on February 12th to answer any questions regarding the High Rock parking area.

Assistant Director Report: Ms. Peirce reported on the following items:

- The Hooked on Fishing grant has been cancelled due to changing corporate priorities from the sponsors which included Walmart.
- She will represent the Wellness Community on the 2011 Tercentennial Steering Committee.
- Currently booking Arts in the Parks and Children's Theatre performers for the summer. Due to construction at Memorial Park, the Arts in the Parks concerts will most likely be held on the Town Common and the Children's Theatre events will be held at the Eliot School.
- She and Nikki Witham are attending a series of workshops on the Responsive Classroom Program to assist with summer staff training.
- An article appeared in the Boston Globe West Weekly on Sunday January 27th about comparing public summer programs and private camps. Needham Park and Recreation was mentioned in the article.

- The summer program supervisor, Scott Lennon is returning for 2008 and former assistant pool supervisor Steve Crimlisk has been promoted to pool supervisor.
- The Eat Well/Be Fit committee is hosting a Healthy Needham 2008 Forum on February 7, from 4:00-6:00PM at the Library Community Room. The event will bring all wellness providers from around town together to network and collaborate on how to make Needham a healthier town for residents from preschoolers to senior citizens. Eat Well/Be Fit is also sponsoring a week of walks and hikes from May 12th to May 18th called "Needham Springs in to Action". The Park and Recreation Commission will offer a nature scavenger hunt on Thursday May 15th from 4:30-5:30PM at the Needham Reservoir.
- The Candlepin Bowling Program was close to being cancelled due to low registration but we have been able to get the minimum and the program is able to run with 12 children.
- Registration for February Vacation week programs are doing well. Two days of Science and Spy Adventure are already filled and Thundercats Sports has only a few spots open.

4. Discussion Items:

A. Director's Report: Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.

B. Field Study Update: Ms. Carey gave an update on the progress of the field project. Bid documents for the track and natural turf field at DeFazio are currently at the Central Register for companies to review. There have been 2 public hearings with the Conservation Commission and once the hearings are closed on February 14th the Conservation Commission can move forward with the Order of Conditions. Ms. Carey indicated she is still waiting for spring field requests from the High School Athletic Director. Once received then she can present the special event requests to the Commission. Mr. Robey noted there was a very positive meeting with the Finance Committee regarding the proposed track and field at DeFazio Field, but that after the Commission left, additional questions were raised. Representatives from the Park and Recreation Commission and Ms. Carey will attend the February 6th Finance Committee meeting.

C. Trails Master Plan: Review of Goals and Objectives: Mrs. Chaston reported that the Trails Committee created a draft Master Plan of goals, objectives and an implementation schedule. The Trails Committee will present the full draft to the Conservation Commission and Park and Recreation Commission for review. The Commission supported the draft goals and objectives.

D. Other Business: Mr. Nadler asked if it was possible to open Rosemary Pool for teen ice skating under the lights. Ms. Carey noted that the pool water does not freeze as thoroughly as the lake does so it would be difficult to skate in the pool area. Mr. Robey noted the email from Mr. Sam Bass Warner regarding the Fins and Ferns group connecting with students from Advanced Landscape Design class

of the Arnold Arboretum Landscape Institute of Harvard University to study the Camp Malcolm property. Ms. Carey has not heard back from Mr. Bass Warner, and her request that he follow the protocol set by the Commission. Mr. Dollase will contact Mr. Bass Warner.

6. Action Items:

A. Amend Commission Rules and Regulations: Annual Reorganization of Commission:

Mr. Dermody made a motion to amend the following areas.

Under Organization on page 3: "The Needham Park and Recreation Commission will elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve for a term of one *fiscal* year."

On page 5 under Organizational Meeting: "The Park and Recreation Commission shall hold an annual organizational meeting for the purpose of electing its officers ~~at the first meeting following the Annual Town Election in June.~~" Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Mr. Nadler made a motion to make the change effective immediately. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

B. Request Needham Exchange Club- Acceptance of Claxton Playground

Renovation: Mr. Nadler made a motion to accept the donation of the Claxton Playground renovation from the Exchange Club. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

7. Adjournment: Mr. Dermody made a motion to adjourn the meeting 7:47 PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director