

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

**Minutes of Meeting
August 11, 2014**

- PRESENT:** Cynthia J. Chaston, Chairman
David C. DiCicco, Vice-Chairman
Michael J. Retzky, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
- ABSENT:** Thomas M. Jacob, Member
Matthew M. Toolan, Member
- GUESTS:** Janet Jankowiak, YMCA Board Member
Bill Monahan, Needham Baseball and Softball
Paul Siegenthaler, Needham Baseball and Softball
Tom Parlato, Needham Hockey
Thomas Smith, Needham Hockey
Kristen Wright, Park and Recreation Administrative Specialist
Nicole DiCicco, Park and Recreation Recreation Supervisor

Mrs. Chaston called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting – July 28, 2014:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 28, 2014 meeting and it was seconded by Mr. DiCicco and passed unanimously. Mr. DiCicco commended the work being done to study the Memorial Park building.
- 2. Director’s Report** – Mrs. Chaston noted that Recreation Supervisor Nicole DiCicco would be joining the Commission later in the meeting to accept their thanks for her many years of great service to the department and community.
- 3. Program Report** – Ms. Carey reported that the programs come to an end this week, after a very successful eight weeks. The number of participants registered will be documented in the next few weeks, and will exceed last year’s numbers as one week was lost last year due to the school schedule. Revenue is higher than Summer 2012, as a comparison, though. The Pool started Session 4 of swimming lessons this week, and will close on August 29th for the season. Some staff will begin to leave this week for school, but the majority will remain until the final day.

With Ms. DiCicco’s arrival, Mrs. Chaston thanked her on behalf of the Commission for her professionalism during her tenure with the department, and noted that she would be missed. Mr. Retzky noted that Ms. DiCicco has always been helpful and offered her assistance with references in the future. Mr. DiCicco noted that he hesitated running for election to the Commission as his daughter was on the staff, but there were no conflicts during this tenure, and he is proud of her for

choosing to expand her horizons.

4. Action Items

A. Special Event Request – Needham Baseball and Softball: Mrs. Chaston welcomed Paul Siegenthaler and Bill Monahan from Needham Baseball and Softball to discuss their concept for a one-day baseball tournament on Columbus Day. Mr. Siegenthaler wanted to give participants who don't have a chance to play in the summer tournaments an opportunity to participate, and reciprocate with other towns who offer them in the summer. They would use the three diamonds at DeFazio, and have four teams in each division of U12, U13 and U14. Needham would have one team in each division. Mrs. Chaston asked that a representative from Needham Baseball and Softball be at each game, to insure someone is available to represent Needham Baseball and Softball at all times. Mr. DiCicco noted his concern with the ability of DPW Parks and Forestry to keep up maintenance on diamonds. He asked if a fee would be charged to the teams, noting the form indicated there would be none. Mr. Siegenthaler expected it to be about \$250/team to cover costs, including umpires. Mr. Retzky asked that support be provided to Parks and Forestry so that there would not be an expectation that they would need to put aside other tasks to handle this additional special event. Mr. Siegenthaler asked if food trucks could be utilized to provide food, as a member of the Board of Selectmen thought that a waiver could be granted. Ms. Carey stated the Town by-law requires those vehicles to remain 1,000 feet from an active recreation site and she was not aware of waivers being possible. The compromise with groups is having the food trucks bring prepared food and serve from tables from within the park, and not from their trucks that need to remain in the parking lot area. Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the request from Needham Baseball and Softball to hold a one-day tournament at DeFazio Park's McLeod, Warner and Small diamonds, and the Carleton Pavilion on Monday, October 13, 2014 from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM, with a food plan to be provided to the Director of Park and Recreation. A decision on a fee for the tournament is pending. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiCicco and passed unanimously.

B. Set Additional Program Fee: Ms. Carey had not been aware that an additional program had been discussed for the fall season, until a representative of the Community Farm approached her. The department and organization offered Down on the Farm for pre-school participants in the spring, so this would be offering a fall session. Ms. Carey recommended \$50 for a six week session. Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the fee of \$50/six week session of Down on the Farm. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

5. Discussion Items

A. Naming Request – Chamber's Cover: Mrs. Chaston welcomed Tom Smith and Tom Parlato. She noted that Mr. DiCicco has been reviewing the information and will be able to provide additional input. Mr. Smith described former NHS Hockey coach John Chambers

and his influence on Needham youth and hockey. In addition to coaching, he helped create the Park and Recreation hockey program, and most Saturdays in the winter found him cleaning off Rosemary Lake and working with young skaters on the lake as they played pond hockey. Mr. Smith has put much of the information on a DVD, and has taped interviews, including former NHS player and NHL player and coach Robbie Ftorek who described Mr. Chambers as a man of few words but great influence, and one of the greatest coaches he ever had. The proposal would be to have a rock and plaque placed on the Rosemary Street side of the lake, near Tillotson Road, calling that small area “Chambers’ Cove.” Mr. Smith also noted that the new NHS coach will be Mr. Chamber’s grandson Jamie O’Leary. Mr. Parlato worked with Coach Chambers at the Park and Recreation hockey program and shared success stories of the young participants. Mr. Retzky noted that the location of the stone might require Conservation Commission approval due to its proximity to the lake. Mr. Smith has an example of a stone that he will photograph for the Commission to view. Ms. Carey asked that the notes be put into a written request for the Commission, so that the formal process could begin. Mr. DiCicco expressed his support for the naming, as in addition to honoring a coach, it reflected the Commission’s desire for Rosemary to be seen as a year round recreation facility.

- B. Park and Recreation Goals:** Mrs. Chaston would like the Commission to be prepared to discuss and set some goals at the first meeting in September. The Commission has spent most of the past two years on the Rosemary Pool project and the discussion on the future of Cricket Field, but is now prepared to work on other projects and goals. She will send information to the Commission prior to the meeting, and members can send her suggestions in advance of the meeting.
- C. Council on Aging – Joint Appointment:** Mrs. Chaston will interview 6 candidates and will confer with Selectmen Vice Chairman Moe Handel on a recommendation for appointment.
- D. Town-Wide Facilities Study:** Ms. Carey reported that the working group would be meeting this week, so additional information would be available at the next meeting.
- E. School Feasibility Study:** Mrs. Chaston noted that the MSBA had voted to support moving the Hillside project into the feasibility stage. Mr. DiCicco noted the Needham Times article stated that Cricket Field would not be an option for the study.
- F. Fall Field Scheduling:** Ms. Carey is just about finished with the scheduling and will have it sent out this week.
- G. Harold J. A. Street, III Trust:** No new information available.
- H. Trail Projects:** No new information available.
- I. Rosemary Pool Project:** Ms. Carey will be meeting with the Town Manager and Public

Facilities-Construction Director on the next steps for requesting funds. Mrs. Chaston has spoken separately to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. She will seek to have a more formal conversation with them, to insure that moving the pool project forward is a priority.

J. Newman/Eastman Conservation Project: Weston & Sampson's recent meeting with the Conservation Commission was helpful in providing some guidance and hearing what some of the questions and concerns might be. The Parks and Forestry Superintendent will be scheduling a meeting with some of the sports groups to get input on design options, and then draft designs will be presented to the School Committee. Mr. DiCicco hopes to attend that meeting, to represent the Commission.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Mrs. Chaston suggested a meeting with the Community Preservation Committee to review upcoming requests from the Commission. She would also like to invite the Town Manager to attend an upcoming meeting, which the Commission tries to do annually. Mrs. Chaston and Mr. DiCicco will attend an upcoming meeting with representatives from the Board of Selectmen regarding trash. Mrs. Chaston also noted that the Board of Selectmen has placed an item on their goal list to make improvements to the canoe launch area on South Street near Dedham Avenue.

7. Adjournment of Meeting: Mr. Retzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM and it was seconded by Mr. DiCicco. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, CPRP
Director