

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
September 8, 2014**

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

**GUESTS:** Janet Jankowiak, YMCA Board Member  
Connie Kaufman, YMCA Board Member  
Tom Smith, Chamber's Cove Proponent  
Tom Parlato, Chamber's Cove Proponent  
Katy Dirks, Needham Community Center  
Dan Shapiro, Cricket Neighbor

Mrs. Chaston called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting – August 11, 2014:** Mr. Toolan made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob and was passed unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Mr. DiCicco asked that a Commissioner be part of the interview team for the Assistant Director position.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report and the attendance information from Rosemary Pool for 2014, with comparison reports from 2012 and 2013.
4. **Discussion Items:**
  - a. **Naming Request – Chamber's Cove at Rosemary Lake:** Tom Smith and Tom Parlato reviewed their earlier informal discussion with the Commission and submitted a written request to name a portion of Rosemary Lake in memory of John Chambers, a former Needham High hockey coach and coach in the Needham Park and Recreation hockey program. They also submitted photos with the suggested location for some granite benches and stone. Ms. Carey will review the location information with the Conservation Director to see if a permit is needed, and also with DPW regarding maintenance of the parking lot area. Mr. Jacob asked if there was a reason for making the request now. Mr. Parlato stated that it would have been great to have done it while Mr. Chambers was alive, but they would like to acknowledge him now, as Mr. Chamber's grandson becomes coach of Needham High hockey. Mr. Smith anticipates

raising about \$5,000 for the project. Mrs. Chaston asked Mr. DiCicco to work with Mr. Smith and Mr. Parlato on some additional written information. Mr. Toolan suggested that it would be helpful to hear from others who support the request. Mrs. Chaston will have the request placed on the next agenda for further review, and possibly a vote.

- b. Park and Recreation Commission Goals:** Mrs. Chaston provided past goals to the Commission and asked them to consider updated goals, so that a new list could be formalized at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Toolan suggested sending them to Mrs. Chaston prior to the meeting so that a draft would be ready for review. Mr. DiCicco would like a survey of young parents conducted so that some goals could be set from there. Mrs. Chaston suggested listing the survey as a goal. She asked the Commission to consider long-term and short-term goals.
- c. Council on Aging Appointment:** Mrs. Chaston, Selectman Moe Handel, and COA Co-Chair Carol deLemos interviewed six candidates, most with very relevant strengths. This week, the Selectmen will appoint Penny Grossman to the position, based on her experience with seniors as well as with grant writing. Mrs. Chaston will invite Ms. Grossman to an upcoming meeting. Mr. Jacob also suggested inviting one of the COA Co-Chairs to attend the meeting.
- d. Town-Wide Facilities Study:** Mr. Toolan reviewed the status of the study, with the focus now on prioritizing projects. The pool project stands alone, as other projects are not directly connected. It appears that the preferred site for a new DPW would be the Commission's Parcel 74 on Greendale Avenue, and that the DPW project may have to be one of the first projects put in place in order to create space adjacent to DeFazio for a temporary or permanent school. There is still a lot of discussion related to Nike Site and Ridge Hill. There will be a meeting of several boards on October 22 to review options and jurisdictions. An upcoming decision for the Commission will be accepting the request to include some Commission parcels in feasibility studies for projects, including Parcel 74, Town Forest, Claxton, and/or a portion of the Commission's section at DeFazio. Some land, including Parcel 74 could be included in a "swap" between jurisdictions, and the consensus was that any parcel(s) given to the Commission should be usable or have infrastructure improvements included.
- e. School Feasibility Study:** Ms. Carey did not have any additional information. Cricket neighbor Dan Shapiro noted that the Cricket parcel had been discussed at a recent PPBC meeting regarding the Hillside School feasibility study, but that it was later made clear that Cricket was not an option to be studied for that project.
- f. Harold J. A. Street, III Trust:** Ms. Carey did not have additional information. Mr. DiCicco noted that Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen supports the addition of "Big Belly" trash containers at the major parks.

- g. Rosemary Pool Project:** Ms. Carey noted that the pool project is part of the Facilities Study discussed earlier, and that it would be part of the financing plan currently being developed for the Study. Mrs. Chaston has been discussing the project with individual members of the Board of Selectmen, so that they understand the importance to the Commission. Mr. Retzky asked if a CPC application should be filed now, but Ms. Carey said that there would be enough information from the Facilities Study to submit by the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- h. Newman/Eastman Conservation Project:** Ms. Carey noted that Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen, the project manager, and Weston & Sampson, the consultants, met with representatives of Needham Baseball and Softball, Needham Soccer, and Needham Junior Football regarding draft layout plans for Newman. She noted that there were some initial disagreements between baseball and soccer, but that they eventually were able to come to agreement on options. Mr. Olsen will present the information at an upcoming School Committee meeting. Mr. DiCicco noted his concern at not being asked to attend the meeting with the sports organizations.

#### **5. Action Items:**

- a. Special Event Request – Booster Club Christmas Tree Sales:** Ms. Carey does not have any concerns regarding the annual request in the quarry area. She noted that the Village Club partnered with the Booster Club and did much of the actual work, and that there were no current concerns related to clean-up. As a member of the Village Club, Mr. DiCicco noted that he had personally done much of the clean-up. Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the request of the Needham Booster Club to use the Claxton quarry area for the annual Christmas Tree Sale from Thanksgiving through Christmas. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiCicco and was approved unanimously.
- b. Special Event Request – Community Center of Needham:** Ms. Carey noted that this was becoming an annual event, but that the Community Center group had not finalized details on the use of the Town Common. Katy Dirks explained that their initial plan for Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> did not appear to be one that would work, so they were currently looking at Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> or the night of the Blue Tree Lighting, which falls a week after Thanksgiving. Mrs. Chaston stated that the Commission would wait for an updated plan before any vote was taken.
- c. Special Event Fee – Columbus Day Baseball Tournament:** Mrs. Chaston reminded the Commission that they had approved the request of Needham Baseball and Softball for the one day tournament at their August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, but had deferred the decision on the fee. The consensus was that the tournament was a special event that was not part of the regular season, so that the fees in place should be charged. Mr. Jacob made a motion to charge the special event rate for tournaments for the Needham Baseball and Softball Columbus Day Baseball Tournament at \$250 per natural grass field for 4 hours

or less or \$500 per natural grass field for more than 4 hours. The motion was seconded by Mr. Toolan and was passed unanimously.

- d. Fall Meeting Dates:** Before discussing the meeting schedule, Mrs. Chaston noted that there was recent vandalism at Greene's Field. Ms. Carey had notified the Commission about the damage to the new Library Box, as well as the graffiti earlier in the summer on the basketball court. Mrs. Chaston recently saw Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen at High Rock fields and he showed her the recent work that had been done on the fields to alleviate a drainage problem. She noted his pride in the work that had been done. Mrs. Chaston reminded the Commission to review the Board of Selectmen goals, recently forwarded to them. She also invited them to the dedication of the new 9/11 memorial on Chestnut Street. The dedication ceremony will begin at 8:30 AM on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and will include a moment of silence at the time the first plane struck the World Trade Center.

The Commission's October meeting dates are in conflict with Columbus Day holiday and fall's Special Town Meeting. The Commission has changed the dates of their October meetings to Monday, October 6 at 7 PM and Monday, October 20 at 7 PM. Ms. Carey will notify them of the meeting locations. The Town Manager will attend the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Dirks asked to give some updates. She noted that Parent Talk has been able to move their play space back to Needham in a building recently purchased by the Congregational Church adjacent to the church. Community Center of Needham is trying to schedule Friday night gym space to provide teens open gym space. The organization is also willing to assist with any survey that the Commission might put together.

**6. Topics for Future Agendas:** None presented.

**7. Adjournment of Meeting:** Mr. Toolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, CPRP  
Director