

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
December 8, 2014**

- PRESENT:** Cynthia J. Chaston, Chairman  
Thomas M. Jacob, Member  
Michael J. Retzky, Member  
Patricia M. Carey, Director
- ABSENT:** David C. DiCicco, Vice Chairman  
Matthew M. Toolan, Member
- GUESTS:** Dan Shapiro, Cricket neighbor  
Janet Jankowiak, YMCA Board  
Connie Kaufman, YMCA Board  
Yasue Keyes, Community Center of Needham  
Rich Chylinski, Community Center of Needham

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 – November 24, 2014:** The Commission’s packets didn’t arrive until Monday’s mail delivery, so they opted to wait until the next meeting to review and vote on the minutes.
2. **Director’s Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Mrs. Chaston updated the Commission on her meeting with the Needham Heights Association, which was also filmed for the Needham Channel. Most questions related to the pool project, with questions related to programming changes, including a longer season. Mrs. Chaston noted that Ms. Carey had been at the State House earlier in the day with other members of the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association meeting with the incoming Secretary of Energy and Environmental Programs. Ms. Carey reported that Needham High Boys Soccer Coach Don Brock has received the Robert W. Robinson Long-Term Service Award by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, the most prestigious award for high school coaches nationally.
3. **Program Report:** Ms. Carey provided written information on programs held for seniors, ages 50 and older. The information was mailed to more than 300 individuals who had been past participants in programs.
4. **Discussion Items**
  - a. **School Feasibility Study:** Mrs. Chaston and Mr. DiCicco attended last week’s Finance Committee meeting. The Finance Committee member’s motion to include Cricket Field in the Hillside feasibility study was withdrawn after a lengthy discussion. PPBC Chairman George Kent assured the Finance Committee that the study would include comparison financial information on a flat parcel of land, and that work would continue on the

Facilities Study to determine whether there were ways to have a school and DPW co-exist on the parcels on Dedham Avenue, including DeFazio Park. The Town Manager has sent a memo to the PPBC stating that Cricket Field is not available for the study, based on votes of the Park and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen.

- b. Town-Wide Facilities Study:** Mr. Toolan attended the PPBC's public hearing on the Facilities Study. As he is not available, tonight, the discussion will be continued at the next meeting. Ms. Carey shared an FAQ's document prepared for the public hearing.
- c. Trash in Parks:** Will be discussed at the next meeting.
- d. Trails Projects:** Ms. Carey shared information on the Student Conservation Association. Massachusetts students apply to be part of this program for the summer, and complete outdoor projects, including building bog bridges, kiosks, repairing trails and creating new trails. Conservation Director Matt Varrell is in discussions with this program, to see if some of the trails project can be completed by this group. He has submitted a funding request to the CPC. If the project moves forward, Mr. Varrell would supervise the students, in conjunction with the program supervisor.
- e. FY'16 Operating and Capital Budgets:** Mrs. Chaston and Ms. Carey will meet with the Finance Committee on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Prior to that, a meeting will be held with the Finance Committee liaisons.
- f. Community Preservation Projects:** The CPC has received 10 applications for review. Mr. Retzky explained that the first step is to determine whether each proposal is eligible for CPA funding. For those that are eligible, liaisons will be appointed, and the review process will begin. A public hearing will be held in March, and the CPC will then vote on whether to recommend to Town Meeting or not.
- g. Rosemary Pool Project:** The CPC funding request for design funds has been submitted.
- h. Newman/Eastman Conservation Project:** The CPC funding requests have been submitted individually, for Newman Athletic Fields and for Eastman Conservation Area.
- i. Board of Health Concussion Study:** Mr. DiCicco is not available to provide an update on the planning status of the educational night, so this will be discussed at the next meeting.
- j. Commission Goals Reports:** Most goals were discussed as part of prior agenda items this evening.
- k. Harold J. A. Street, III Trust:** No updates, provided.

**5. Action Items**

- a. **CPC Request – Canoe Launch:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to support the submission of a funding request to the Community Preservation Committee for design funds to improve the canoe launch on the Charles River at South Street. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob and was approved.
- b. **December Meeting Schedule:** The Commission has chosen to cancel their December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Their next meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2015, and will include the annual field scheduling summit.

- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:** Ms. Carey will move forward the minutes from this evening's meeting and discussions on the concussion presentation, trash in parks programs, and the Town-Wide Facilities Study. Mr. Retzky has spoken with a member of the Board of Selectmen who would like to start a formal discussion on the changing of jurisdictions of some properties. Ms. Carey also noted that the PPBC will be looking for support from the Commission, Board of Selectmen, and School Committee on the inclusion of DeFazio Park in the Hillside feasibility study. Ms. Carey also commended the Community Center of Needham, Needham Business Association and Needham Merchants Association for collaborating on the past weekend's events, including the Blue Tree lighting.
- 7. Adjournment of Meeting:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, CPRP  
Director