

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

**Minutes of Meeting
March 16, 2015**

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
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Chris Gerstel, Candidate for Park and Recreation Commission
Jo-Anne Ochalla, Community Center of Needham
Steve Popper, Director Public Facilities Construction

Mrs. Chaston called the Special Meeting to order at 7:01 PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building. She noted that the special meeting was to talk about the funding request of \$1 million dollars to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for the Rosemary Pool Project design.

1. CPC Proposal: Rosemary Pool: The Park and Recreation Commission requested \$1 million dollars from the CPC for the Rosemary Pool Project design. Mrs. Chaston noted that some members of the Finance Committee (FinCom) asked if the request should be smaller so that feasibility could be completed, first. Public Facilities-Construction Director Steve Popper and Project Manager Hank Haff worked on schedules, with one option to request \$450,000 at this Town Meeting, and the remainder of design funds at the May 2016 Town Meeting, and construction funds at May 2017 Town Meeting. Mrs. Chaston pointed out that the concern would be the permit to drain Rosemary Lake would expire after Summer 2016 leaving the Summer 2017 in question. The initial design funds would cover alternate siting information, schematic design, design development, estimates, surveying and permit preparation. Mr. Jacob asked if it was known what the Finance Committee was concerned about. Mrs. Chaston stated that without the exact location of the pool known, there were some members that felt that the feasibility work was not complete. The CPC has not requested a change in the funding request. Mr. Toolan wanted to insure that permitting costs and timelines would be noted in the initial design phase, and Mr. Retzky assured him that the information would be part of the initial phase. Mr. Popper said that the schedule was developed so that the permits are being requested at the time that the funding will need to be replenished so they would be on time. Mr. Popper said they prefer to have the bids and permits when the request for funding of construction is made at May 2017 Town Meeting. Mr. Retzky noted that it was unclear whether the current pool would be open in Summer 2017 or not. A one year permit could be requested, or a one year waiver on painting the pool could be requested.

Mr. DiCicco questioned whether the permitting would change depending on the location. Ms. Carey said building the pool into the hill would require more permitting than keeping it in the lake. Commission candidate Chris Gerstel wanted to clarify that the CPC is okay with the request for one million dollars but FinCom is not. Ms. Carey said that was correct. Mr. DiCicco asked Mr. Popper what his opinion was about the location. Mr. Popper said that he wants to wait and see what the time and cost will be to move it out of the lake. Mrs. Chaston pointed out that if the pool is built into the hill, then there will be the option later to enclose the pool; however if the pool is built in the lake, that option would not be available. Mr. Jacob reiterated that they have to listen to the people of the Town and they said they wanted a pool at Rosemary and not at another site. If a season is lost, the staff will need to work on plans for getting people to return. Jo-Anne Ochalla from Community Center of Needham requested that the RFP be written so that the pool can be outdoors with the eventual option of becoming indoors. She said the Community Center of Needham was hiring someone to do a study on having an enclosure for the pool. Mr. Toolan made a motion to amend the CPC request for \$1 million for Rosemary Pool Design and permitting funds to split the request into two parts - \$450k for design at 2015 May Town Meeting, with the construction documents and permitting, estimated to be \$550k, but yet undetermined, to be requested at 2016 May Town meeting. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and it was approved. Mr. Retzky will present the Commission's request to the CPC at their March 18th meeting.

2. Adjournment of Meeting: Mr. Retzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM. Mr. Toolan seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Fink,
Assistant Director