

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

**Minutes of Meeting
July 27, 2015**

- PRESENT:** David DiCicco, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Christopher J. Gerstel, Member
Michael J. Retzky, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
- ABSENT:** Matthew M. Toolan, Vice Chairman
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director
- GUESTS:** Katy Dirks, Community Center of Needham
Janet Jankowiak, YMCA Board
Connie Kaufman, YMCA Board

Mr. DiCicco called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting – July 13, 2015:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 13, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Director’s Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Mrs. Chaston acknowledged the donation of items to the Pool by the Community Center of Needham. Mr. DiCicco expressed the Commission’s appreciation to CCN President Katy Dirks, who was present at the meeting.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Mr. Retzky asked what the pool rate was for a Needham school employee who is not a resident. He knows a family from a nearby town who visits the pool regularly with others, and is also a Needham school employee. Ms. Carey said that the out-of-town rates apply, as there is no policy that provides school employees with in-town rates. The Commission will consider when reviewing their policies.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - A. **Rosemary Pool Design:** Mr. Retzky will continue to serve as a temporary member of PPBC through the vote for the designer, and then Mr. Toolan will return to the position. Mr. DiCicco noted that the majority of the Commission heard the three interviews at the last PPBC meeting, and he asked for input from each Commissioner. Mr. Gerstel appreciated the comments from each company and the questions that were asked by Mr. Retzky and Ms. Carey on behalf of the Commission. He expressed his support for Weston and Sampson

and BH+A, but felt that MDS did not have enough experience with pool projects. Mrs. Chaston agreed that MDS did not have the experience. She preferred the BH+A presentation over the one from Weston and Sampson, and has a slight preference for BH+A, though she felt either company could do the project well. Mr. DiCicco agreed that MDS did not have the experience and that the project would not lose if either Weston and Sampson or BH+A was hired. He felt that the possibility of two pools should be considered, and only heard BH+A discuss it, so slightly favored BH+A. Mr. Retzky appreciated the comments from the geotech representative in the BH+A presentation, and also the discussion about working with code enforcers. He noted that Cheri Ruane from Weston and Sampson is a strong presenter and the firm had done well on the study. He did not feel the MDS team was cohesive, and the pool consultant was based in Missouri. He felt it was a close choice between BH+A and Weston and Sampson. Ms. Carey felt that MDS did not have the experience, and would not be prepared to handle the public input aspect of the project. She felt that both Weston and Sampson and BH+A had qualifications for the project, but that Weston and Sampson had a greater strength with public input. Ms. Carey has worked with both BH+A and Weston and Sampson on feasibility studies at the site, and found that BH+A was more reluctant to consider public input, which will be a vital part of the upcoming design. She also noted that BH+A did a subsequent study of the Rosemary site for the new senior center, and disputed some of their findings in the prior study. Mr. DiCicco has spoken with Mr. Toolan who was not present for the interviews, but had read the materials and slightly favored BH+A.

B. Rosemary Pool Design Advisory Committee: Mr. DiCicco and Mr. Toolan discussed the consensus from the Commission's prior meeting on the make-up of the advisory group. Mr. Toolan is concerned that some organizations are specifically chosen to have representatives, and he wondered if other similar organizations should also have the opportunity to participate. He mentioned not being specific with day cares and swim teams. Mr. DiCicco noted that the Needham Sharks is the long-term swim team using Rosemary Pool, so he still supported them being asked. Mr. Retzky stated that the Commission had lengthy conversations and he felt the group was diversified and that the process should move forward. Ms. Carey reminded the Commission that people did not have to be on the advisory committee to have input. Mrs. Chaston noted that Mr. Toolan just wanted to insure there was diversity and that members were not just "hand-picked" by the Commission. Mr. DiCicco asked Ms. Carey to advertise for the open positions and to notify the organizations that have been named to send the name of their official appointment to the Commission.

C. School Feasibility Study: Ms. Carey stated that the PPBC would be continuing its discussion on the Hillside project at their meeting, tonight.

Some new renditions of a possible school at the Owens property have been developed. It appears that there will be space for physical education and recess, but not for official athletic fields. Ms. Carey noted that it is likely that the fields at Hillside would remain, so there wouldn't be a loss to the community.

D. Newman/Eastman Projects Update: Ms. Carey noted that Mr. Gerstel attended a recent weekly construction meeting, and will try to attend others. Mr. Gerstel stated that the field space is being leveled, and work is progressing on the Eastman trail. He described the cohesiveness of the team, including the designers and contractors, as well as representatives of the Town.

E. Fall Field Scheduling: Ms. Carey has received information from most groups. A few special events are on the agenda for approval, and she has several repeat special event requests to send to the Trustees. She will need to balance out some requests between Soccer Club and Needham Baseball and Softball. Mr. DiCicco asked if Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen had incorporated any maintenance time into the schedule. Ms. Carey stated that Mr. Olsen would like to do a project at Pollard, but won't start on it unless Newman becomes available in mid-Fall. There is also the possibility of work being done on the Mills diamond with temporary shut-downs.

5. Action Items:

A. Special Event Request – Needham Baseball and Softball Tryouts: Ms. Carey noted that the time requested is within the typical fall permit, but that if construction moves forward, NB&S would need to shift try-outs to another location. Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the request of Needham Baseball and Softball to host tryouts at Mills Field, pending availability based on construction, on September 19, 20, 26, 27 and October 3, 4 from 8 AM to 5:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and approved unanimously. Mr. DiCicco asked for clarification on the permits, insuring that Needham Baseball and Softball pays fees for three seasons. Ms. Carey confirmed that three seasons are paid by Needham Baseball and Softball.

B. Special Event Request – Columbus Day Tournament: Ms. Carey noted this was the second year of the one-day tournament, with expanded field request. Mr. DiCicco confirmed that a tournament fee would be charged. As most of the teams are not part of Needham Baseball and Softball, this is considered a tournament with a fee, according to Ms. Carey. Mr. Retzky asked that the group be reminded that a Needham representative needs to be on site at all times during the tournament. Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the request of Needham Baseball and Softball to host a tournament on Monday,

October 12, 2015 at Walker-Gordon, DeFazio-McLeod, DeFazio-Small, and Pollard 60' from 7 AM – 6:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and approved unanimously.

C. Set Program Fees for Fall/Winter/Spring: Ms. Carey outlined the recommendations, noting that most programs covered their expenses with a net surplus. She noted that the fee for Down on the Farm was increased to cover costs, and Ski and Snowboard was increased as the likely company has increased its fees. She noted that the number of scholarships for Nashoba Ski and Snowboard had created a deficit, but most of them were covered through the program fees collected. Mr. DiCicco asked if the fee for skating covered expenses. Ms. Carey noted that St. Sebastian's did not currently charge the department for ice time, so the fee was primarily for staff and some expenses and was sufficient. Mr. DiCicco asked Ms. Carey if she was comfortable with the recommended fees, and Ms. Carey stated that she felt they all covered the costs of the programs. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the fees for fall/winter/spring programs as recommended by the Director and Assistant Director and seen on Appendix A. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and approved unanimously.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Mrs. Chaston recently had a discussion with Selectman Dan Matthews. Mr. Matthews is a long-time member of Rosemary Pool, but has been using it more frequently this summer. He commended the work of the staff and the upkeep of the pool and facility. Mrs. Chaston asked that his comments be shared with the staff. Mr. DiCicco noted that Mr. Matthews has been a long-time supporter of the pool. Mr. DiCicco and Mr. Toolan will attend a meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Selectmen in August and will discuss the pool project. Ms. Carey noted that the Selectmen would like to set a goal to assist the Commission in seeking a new permit for draining for the year between the permit expiration and the construction of the pool. Mr. DiCicco also noted that he is mindful that the Commission and Trustees of Memorial Park still need to meet, but the Trustees are not meeting until the fall.

7. Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Retzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, CPRP
Director

2015 Fall Fee Recommendations

Revolving Fund	Fall 2014 Winter/Spring 2015	Recommended Fall 2015 Winter/Spring 2016	Number of Classes	General Fund Deposit	Approved
Spooky Walk	\$3	\$3	1	NA	\$3
Turkey Hunt	\$5	\$5	1	NA	\$5
Kids Night Out	\$16	\$16	1	NA	\$16
Ice Skating Lessons	\$55	\$55	8	\$5.00	\$55
Youth Tennis Lessons	\$60	\$60	5	\$5.00	\$60
Ski and Snowboard	\$470 w/lessons \$425 w/o lessons	\$480 w/lessons \$435 w/o lessons	6	\$5.00	\$480 w/lessons \$435 w/o lessons
Down on the Farm	\$50	\$85.00	6	\$5.00	\$85
Glass Arts and More	\$35	\$35.00	1	\$5.00	\$35
Adult Golf Lessons	\$110	\$110	5	\$5.00	\$110
Adult Tennis Lessons - Outdoor	\$75	\$75	5	\$5.00	\$75
Adult Badminton	\$70	\$80	33	\$5.00	\$80
Adult Basketball	\$70	\$80	33	\$5.00	\$80
Senior Exercise	\$25	\$25	9	\$5.00	\$25
Senior Yoga	\$25	\$25	9	\$5.00	\$25
Senior Walking	\$30	\$30	74	\$5.00	\$30
Take a Hike	FREE	FREE	4	NA	FREE

General Fund	Fall 2014 Winter/Spring 2015	Recommended Fall 2015 Winter/Spring 2016	Number of Classes	General Fund Deposit	Approved
Adult Volleyball	\$30	\$30	30	\$30	\$30