

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

**Minutes of Meeting
September 8, 2015**

PRESENT: David DiCicco, Chairman
Matthew M. Toolan, Vice Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Michael J. Retzky, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director

ABSENT Christopher J. Gerstel, Member

GUESTS: BH+A: Joel Bargmann, Tom Scarlata
Community Center of Needham: Katy Dirks, Jo-Anne Ochalla, Georgiana Ruetenik

Mr. DiCicco called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Highland Room at Town Hall.

1. **Minutes of Meeting – August 24, 2015:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 24, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Carey gave all Commission Members a Board, Committee and Commission Member Handbook provided by the Town Clerk.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Mrs. Chaston requested the pool user numbers from the past summer.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - A. **Rosemary Pool Design:** Ms. Fink supplied drawings with lifeguard placement at different types and designs of pools to provide guidance on the staffing needs based on decisions made on pool design. MA Public Health requires 1:25 guards to patrons but that can be lowered due to pool design. Ms. Carey provided information on differing types of water play structures, cost, staffing, and target audience. Mr. DiCicco asked that all questions for BH+A be directed to Ms. Carey so that she can coordinate getting responses from BH+A. Tom Scarlata, BH+A, showed the Commission schematics of raising the pool up eight feet to be level with the bottom of the building to make the pool more accessible. BH+A will discuss the option of placing filter systems at the pool level with the Conservation Commission. BH+A needs the Commission to decide if they want to have the lap pool or the zero depth entry pool be closer to the building. If the lap pool were to be enclosed, it

would need to be closer to the building. Mrs. Chaston raised the concern of the cost of the indoor facility and the need to demonstrate operation costs of the facility.

B. Rosemary Pool Advisory Committee: Mr. Toolan gave a recap of the questions and concerns that were raised at the Pool Advisory Committee meeting:

- a. Can the pool have a natural filtration system?
- b. Can the pool be shifted so it is closer to the building?
- c. 50 meter lap pool vs. 25 meter lap pool
- d. Water walking is an important feature
- e. How can we configure the pool to accommodate differing depths for different program needs?
- f. Possible enclosure options – don't want it to hold up the timeline, access from pool to building, accessibility
- g. Importance of designing the facility with multi generational components – picnic tables, terraces, bocce and/or shuffleboard, spray park with an extended season, better playground

C. School Feasibility Study: Project Manager Hank Haff briefed the Commission on the school feasibility study. The Permanent Public Building Committee (PPBC) has submitted plans to the MSBA with three options. The first option would be to demolish and rebuild Hillside School at Hillside School with a temporary building at DeFazio. Option two would be building a new school at Central Avenue and leaving Hillside School as a swing space for future school building/renovations. The third option would be to build at a permanent site at DeFazio as either an elementary school or sixth grade center. If it was built as a sixth grade center, Hillside could be added onto for the elementary school. The PPBC and School Department will be meeting to choose one site as a preferred site.

D. Projects Update: Newman, Eastman, Mills, Rail Trail: Ms. Carey noted that the projects remains on schedule. The Newman fields are ready for irrigation installation, and then final steps undertaken for the sod. Eastman is at the final stages, but all the connections from the school site still need to be built. The contractor for the Mills parking project will be Sunshine Paving, the contractor who built the Mills tennis courts. The bid opening will be next week for the sodding of the diamond. The state has just notified the Town Manager that Needham will receive a \$50,000 trail grant for the rail trail project. Conservation Director Matt Varrell applied on behalf of the Town.

E. Department Projects Update: The Commission reviewed the list of major staff projects, seen as Appendix A.

F. Capital Budget Requests: Ms. Carey provided the Commission with a handout showing the Capital Budget Requests, as seen in Appendix B. A decision will need to be made on the timeline for requesting renovations to the Cricket building.

G. Joint Field Permit Policy: Mr. DiCicco will attend the next meeting of the Memorial Park Trustees. He received complaints about youth being kicked off the field at DeFazio because they didn't have a permit. He feels that youth should be able to use a field if it is not closed or permitted. Mr. Toolan noted that it was a policy issue that needs to be looked at to distinguish between an organized practice and a group practicing on their own. If it is okay for Captain's Practice to take place, then it needs to be spelled out in the policy. If fields are closed, it should be updated correctly on the website or with a sign on the field to eliminate confusion. Mr. DiCicco requested that the policy be re-written to allow a group of youth to use the field without a permit. Representatives of the Commission and Trustees will need to draft changes to present to both boards. Ms. Carey asked that staff input be provided to the process, including from Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen.

5. Action Items:

A. Troop 13 Camporee Parking Request: Boy Scout Troop 13 is requesting the use of overnight parking at Claxton Field for their Camporee. This is an annual event. Ms. Carey stated that in prior years most of the parking is within the Town Forest with overflow at Claxton field. Mr. Toolan made a motion to allow overnight parking for Troop 13 at Claxton field for their Camporee September 26-27. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky and approved unanimously.

B. October Meeting Schedule: The Commission meeting scheduled for September 28 will be a full meeting discussion on Rosemary Pool. The October 12th meeting will be rescheduled to October 5th due to the Columbus Day holiday.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: None at this time.

7. Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Toolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn G. Fink, CPRP
Assistant Director