

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
October 5, 2015**

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

**GUESTS:** *BH+A:* Tom Scarlata  
*Community Center of Needham (CCN):* Katy Dirks  
*YMCA Board:* Connie Kaufman, Janet Jankowiak  
*Town of Needham:* Hank Haff  
*Town of Needham – Board of Selectmen:* Matthew Borrelli  
*Needham High School:* Adam Cole

Mr. DiCicco called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM in the Selectmen's Chambers at Town Hall.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting – September 28, 2015:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2. Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Carey gave an overview of the meeting she and Mr. DiCicco attended with Eversource about tree removal along the transmission lines. Ms. Carey's safety concerns at DeFazio are what kind of erosion will happen along the hill and what will come down the hill and onto the fields once the trees are removed. Eversource will be meeting with the MBTA to discuss the impact the tree removal will have along the train track and hill. Ms. Carey did voice her concern about how the trees would be removed as large trucks would not be allowed on the turf field or track, and she is concerned about the damage that could be done to the fields. Mrs. Chaston raised the question about how the abutters to DeFazio along the tree line would be affected by sound and lights that are not blocked by the tree line. Ms. Carey noted that tree removal would not be done on the residents' side of the railroad tracks. Mr. Gerstel commended the work being done at Newman fields and how well it drained during the last week of heavy rains. Mr. DiCicco mentioned that he spoke to the new Chief of Police John Schlittler, about having the police be more involved with Park and Recreation and the youth.
- 3. Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report.
- 4. Discussion Items**

**A. Rosemary Pool Design:** Mr. Toolan stated that he had received several questions from Community Center of Needham (CCN), some of which had already been addressed. They did raise the question as to what the third floor of the Rosemary Pool building would be used for. The Commission would like it to be “open space” that can be used for recreation activities. Mr. Hank Haff mentioned that the Town Manager requested that office space be looked at when designing the building. Ms. Carey reminded the Commission that CPA funds could only be used for the bathhouse, check-in area, concession, and outdoor recreation. If a floor was added for year-round recreation, it would not be covered by CPA funds. The Conservation Committee did not give a “no” on the possibility of enclosing a pool, but the DEP or other permitting agency could object to the structure. There are logistical issues with enclosing one of the pools for year round use. Mr. Retzky’s concern is the project needs to be centered around the parking, access, the building and the pool. He would like to see what the cost savings would be if the lap pool is made 6 lanes instead of 8 and if the recreational pool is slightly decreased in size. A decision needs to be made about the enclosure as it would impact the surface (concrete) as well as the drainage system. Mr. Haff reviewed the RFQ timeline, which was delayed due to the late hiring of BH+A, and right now, the project should be moving into the schematic design to finalize the program. At the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Public Permanent Building Committee (PPBC), the Commission can join them to outline their preferred program for the pool and site. Mr. DiCicco noted that an enclosed pool built on the upper tiers closer to the building would have an impact on the other facilities the Commission has planned for the site. When discussing the building, Mrs. Chaston asked if it would be better to keep the current building or to demolish it and re-start. Tom Scarlata, with BH+A, said that they were currently looking into that but that the building was structurally sound. It was mentioned that if the second floor was used for program space, no elevator would be needed as people could enter from that level. If a third floor were added, an elevator would be needed for handicap access. Mr. Haff suggested that instead of building up they could build out laterally. Mr. Retzky will have an information discussion about Rosemary Pool added to the CPC agenda for their November meeting. Mr. DiCicco thanked Mr. Haff for the information from Beede Swim and Fitness Center in Concord regarding the construction and financial pieces of their indoor pool.

**B. Rosemary Pool Advisory Committee:** Mr. Toolan and Mr. Gerstel have scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM in the Highland Room. Ms. Carey will email the committee the information packet Mr. Haff provided on the Beede Swim and Fitness Center as well as the scope and presentation from the September 28<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Katy Dirks, from CCN, stated that she feels the project is more vulnerable if the Commission doesn’t include the potential to enclose the pool. Mr. Toolan explained that

the incremental cost to put the systems in place for the potential of having an indoor space is over \$2 million. Mr. Retzky reminded the Commission that if the money is not approved for the project, the Town will still have to spend around \$2 million to shut the facility down and once it does that, they won't get the option back.

- C. School Feasibility Study:** Mr. Haff reported that the School Committee and PPBC held a public hearing on four options: a new school at Hillside, a new school at Central Avenue site still to be purchased, a new elementary school at DeFazio, and a new 6<sup>th</sup> grade school at DeFazio with renovations at High Rock for an elementary school. With the Hillside at Hillside option, three parcels of land would need to be purchased and currently one of the owners is not willing to sell to the Town. Mr. Haff explained the walkability that each site would have as well as the possible need to redistrict with some of the proposed sites.

Mr. Matthew Borrelli, a Selectman, spoke about the public hearing that had just taken place with Eversource. There are 192 abutters affected by the project and Eversource will offer to meet with each of them but the abutters must make contact with Eversource. A major issue currently with the project is determining where the easement line really is on each property. Eversource was hoping to complete the project in 2015, although that does not seem likely at this time.

- D. Chambers Cove Update:** Mr. DiCicco said a 4x4x4 stone had been purchased along with two benches to be placed at Rosemary Lake as a memorial. Informal plans have been drawn up as to where the stone and benches could be placed. Ms. Carey will meet with Conservation Director Matthew Varrell to determine what might be permissible, and what action needs to be taken with the Conservation Commission
- E. Projects Update: Newman, Eastman, Mills, Rail Trail:** Ms. Carey reported that the sod has started to attach and the drainage was working on the Newman multi-purpose field. With all of the heavy rain last week, there was no standing water on the field. The stairs are going in this week. The concrete pads have been poured for the dugouts and bleachers. The project is currently on schedule. Eastman is close to done, with the outdoor classroom and the safety border to be done. At Mills, the contractor will begin work either Monday or Tuesday on the parking areas. The contractor for the sod still needs to be scheduled. The contract work is being finalized for the Rail Trail and work should be completed by the end of November.
- F. FY'17 Operating and Capital Budgets:** Ms. Carey will be working with Mr. Haff to complete the capital budget request for the pool project by the deadline of Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

5. **Action Items:** None presented.
6. **Topics for Future Agendas:** Mr. DiCicco would like the goals and liaisons added to the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.
7. **Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Fink, CPRP  
Assistant Director