

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

**Minutes of Meeting
March 14, 2016**

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

GUESTS: *Eversource:* Domenic Nicotera
Epsilon: Mike Howard
BH+A: Tom Scarlata
Town of Needham: Richard Merson, Mike Retzky
YMCA Advisory Board: Janet Jankowiak, Connie Kaufman
Community Center of Needham: Deb Whitney, Georgina Arrieta-Ruetenik,
JoAnne Ochalla

Mr. Toolan called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Service Administration Building (PSAB).

- 1. Minutes of Meetings: February 29, 2016:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel. Mrs. Chaston asked that the minutes reflect that she said FinCom was questioning a partnership, not fundraising. She also wanted the minutes to reflect CCN representative Deb Whitney's comment about the ramp around the Rosemary building not being easy for those with small children. The amended minutes on February 29, 2016 were approved unanimously.
- 2. Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Carey let the Commission know that Ms. Fink and she would be attending the Massachusetts Park and Recreation Annual Conference March 21-23. Mr. Toolan asked if the Commission ever does a "thank you" for staff that have worked for the department for a long time and are leaving. Ms. Carey said that normally the office staff does something but, historically, the Commission has not made an acknowledgement.
- 3. Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Fink gave an overview of the March 6th grade TGIF Night event. She also spoke about summer interviews that she and Recreation Supervisor Sarah Mallard are now conducting.
- 4. Discussion Items**

- A. Eversource Reliability Project – Representatives from Eversource:** Domenic Nicotera with Eversource and Mike Howard with Epsilon went over the West Roxbury to Needham Reliability Project. In a recent study, ISO-New England, the independent system operator for New England, concluded that there are inadequate transmission resources to serve the electricity needs in the Greater Boston and Southern New Hampshire area. To proactively address deficiencies and the growing customer demands on the electric system, ISO-New England has directed utilities to implement a series of transmission projects as needed. One of the projects to come out of the solution to solve the identified system reliability problems is the Double Circuit Tower separation of two 115-kV circuits between West Roxbury and Needham. The proposed project involves a combination of overhead and underground transmission line construction. The separation work will involve about 2.5 miles of new underground cable construction located primarily in public streets in the Town of Needham starting around the Valley Road cul-de-sac heading north or south across the Greendale Avenue park land towards Greendale Avenue. Ms. Carey noted that the area under discussion is the former gravel pit, which is property under the Commission's jurisdiction. If the route went through the adjacent parcel, it is designated parkland that would also require a vote of the state legislature. The Commission does not need to vote at this time, but if they vote eventually to support the project, Town Meeting would need to approve an easement. Mrs. Chaston asked if the Town was able to give any input to the project. Mr. Nicotera said the Town would have significant input. Mr. Toolan asked why they wouldn't stay along the right of way. Mr. Nicotera said the easements are unclear, there are constructability issues, and they don't have the right to build underground of MBTA lines.. Mr. Howard outlined the needed permits, including environmental permits, and reviewed the project timeline. Abutters in West Roxbury, Dedham and Needham have been invited to open houses, one of which will be held at Broadmeadow on Wednesday, March 30th. Eversource would then file an application with the Energy Facilities Siting Board and an ENF with MEPA in April 2016. Assuming receipt of all necessary permits and approvals, construction of the transmission line is anticipated to commence in 2017. Construction is anticipated to occur over an 18-month period to be completed by the end of 2018. Ms. Carey asked what the gravel pit would look like after the construction. Mr. Nicotera said they would use trenchless technology to go underground. The gravel pit wouldn't look any different besides now having a manhole cover. Mrs. Chaston asked how deep the trenches are to which Mr. Nicotera answered about 10-20 feet deep and restoration to the area would be done afterwards, leaving the manhole at grade. Mr. Howard and Mr. Nicotera will be back with more information at a later date.
- B. Rosemary Recreation Complex Project and Pool Design Advisory Committee – BH+A:** Tom Scarlata from BH+A gave an overview of the design. Project Manager Mike Retzky said the cost estimates should be ready around April 11. Mr. Scarlata, Ms. Carey, and Mr. Retzky met with the State Board of Health who made some

recommendations for changes to the design to avoid obstructions, and to set the slide so it isn't a splash down. The State wants a one hour turnover for the recreation pool because of the slides and water features. There also must be a fence around the pool to close it off from the rest of the site. BH+A has shown an area for the spray park adjacent to the pool, and the State wants the design to be for one that drains and does not re-use the water. Mr. Toolan is concerned that the water may be wasted, and asked for additional information on water use. Mr. Retzky talked about the level of the pool and the compensatory storage that would be needed. The pool at 108 would put the pool higher, push back the pool about 25 feet, the access would be improved, and the pool deck would be at the same level as the bath house. The downside is there would be an 8ft wall and no spray park and it only makes up for about 1/3 of the compensatory storage. At the 103 level, the compensatory storage would be located across the lake at the camp property. At the 99 level, no compensatory storage would be needed, access would be adjusted some, the pool can still be drained down without the lake, and the spray park could be located near the slides. Mr. Toolan asked if there would be any way to regrade the ramps. Mr. Scarlata said they couldn't because of the building and the grades work with the parking lot as well as being accessible. Mr. Toolan suggested the Commission vote on the change in elevation at their next meeting. Mrs. Chaston asked Mr. Scarlata what he would recommend for elevation, and Mr. Scarlata suggested that keeping the pool at the current pool elevation would work for site flow and reduced construction costs. Mr. Retzky noted that, if the pool was flooded, which has been seen by Ms. Carey once in 30 years, the pool would just be cleaned and re-opened. Ms. Carey reviewed the anticipated programming for the site. Most programs that would take place during the day for preschoolers, homeschoolers, and after school programs would be new program offerings. Mr. Toolan asked if there would be grills at the pool. Ms. Carey noted that the Commission can opt to have grills, with the type and use determined later. Mr. DiCicco wanted clarification that the \$550,000 the Commission is asking for at Town Meeting would not cover decommissioning the Rosemary site if the Commission ended up going that route. Mr. Retzky said it would not cover decommissioning as it would need a design, permitting, and then could be decommissioned. Mr. Toolan presented the Rosemary Recreation Complex Project to CPC, answering lots of questions. FinCom member Dick Reilley provided questions on the project prior to that meeting. Members of the Commission, BH+A, Ms. Carey, and Mr. Retzky put together answers and Mr. Carey will condense the comments into a written response.. Mr. DiCicco asked that the information include why the Commission chose the option, and the Selectmen will help support the decision on having offices at the new building. Community Center of Needham (CCN) also had submitted questions about the project and Mr. Toolan reviewed the answers. The multipurpose room is now at 2280 square feet. The Commission is looking at adding a curtain to the space, but it will not be sound proof. CCN questioned the expandability of the building and not being able to add on a 3rd floor to the project. Mr. Toolan reminded them that parking is an issue. With a bigger building, more parking spaces would be required

and there is no room for additional parking. CCN member Jo-Anne Ochalla asked what would happen if the two departments were to expand. Mr. Toolan said it is being built with a 50 year projection so there is some flexibility within each department's space. Mrs. Ochalla questioned if there would be a staffing increase due to more programs. Ms. Carey said a building monitor would be hired, no full time staff, and part-time programming staff would be hired. Mrs. Whitney asked about the water temperature, and Ms. Carey noted that the pool would not be heated. Mrs. Ochalla suggested reaching out to other groups in town to find out their wants and needs for programs. The Commission reviewed Mr. Toolan's marketing outline.

- C. Community Preservation Projects:** Ms. Carey reviewed the CPC projects that have an impact on Park and Recreation noting the Rosemary Lake dredging, the Memorial Park drainage, and the trails project with SCA. CPC will vote on the projects March 23 and then the recommended projects will go to May Town Meeting.
- D. New Hillside School Project:** The Town has officially purchased the properties owned by Owen's Poultry Farm and Doug Owen. The Town is looking at purchasing one more parcel of land to make the site more accessible.
- E. Land Swap:** Mr. DiCicco, Mr. Toolan, and Ms. Carey will be going to a land swap meeting on Friday and will provide an update to the Commission at the next meeting.
- F. FY'17 Operating and Capital Budgets:** FinCom has approved the operating budgets.
- G. Spring/Summer Field Scheduling:** Ms. Carey reported it should be completed by around the deadline. .

5. Action Items

- A. Set Rosemary Pool Summer 2016 Fees:** Mr. DiCicco made a motion to approve the fees for Rosemary Pool Summer 2016, as recommended by the Director and Assistant Director and seen in Appendix A. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and the fees were approved unanimously.
- B. Set Spring Program Fee:** Mr. Gerstel made a motion to approve the fee of \$20/person plus a season tennis badge for the Women's P&R Doubles League for Spring 2016. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the fee was approved unanimously.
- C. Special Event Request: Bay State Football:** Ms. Chaston made a motion to approve the Bay State Football clinic on August 15-19 at DeFazio with the understanding the Director of Park and Recreation will coordinate the specific hours and dates. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

D. Special Event Request: Soccer Club: Mr. DiCicco made a motion to approve the Soccer Clubs request for two 4-day clinics at DeFazio, on August 8-11, 2016 and August 15-18, 2016 with the understanding the Director of Park and Recreation will coordinate the specific hours. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Skate Park and Food Trucks

7. Adjournment of Meeting: Mr. Gerstel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 10:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Fink, CPRP
Assistant Director



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ROSEMARY POOL FEES Summer 2016

The following information is provided to help the Commission set the fees for the 2016 pool season. As the current pool comes to its final summers, it is recommended that no changes be made to the pool fees.

When reviewing the fees, please remember the following:

- Non-resident rates must be less than 50% of the Needham rate, due to federal law for sites funded by Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Commission's policy for seniors is that the rate is 50% the individual rate.
- The Commission has traditionally offered an "early-bird" rate for Needham residents, only, valid from April 1st through the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. The full-season rate is then charged for season passes. Non-residents are not eligible for the "early-bird" rate.
- Those choosing to try the pool out first, may purchase daily admission or guest pass booklets. If they decide they want to get a season pass, they can turn in their receipts and have the amount already spent deducted from the season pass.
- Not all municipal offerings are solely covered by fees. As an example, the Field Administration fee and the Field Maintenance fee collected from sports organizations don't come close to the costs put out by the Town, including direct costs at the DPW Parks and Forestry Division as well as those at Park and Recreation. Providing a place to swim in the summer, and in particular, to learn to swim, is just as relevant to a person's life as having sports facilities!

Last year, the long winter created challenges to getting the pre-season work completed. We will likely have a different set of conditions this year, with a low water table assisting with the annual draw-down time frame, but also the low water table causing it to take longer to fill.

We anticipate having the season operate from Monday, June 20 through Friday, August 26, 2016, which is a 68 day season as in 2015. Attendance and revenue figures are attached.

Recommended 2016 Season Rates:

Needham Individual	\$110
Needham <i>Early-Bird</i> Individual	\$90
Needham Family	\$215
Needham <i>Early-Bird</i> Family	\$180
Needham Senior (60+)	\$55
Needham <i>Early-Bird</i> Senior	\$45

Non-Resident Individual	\$160
Non-Resident Family	\$310
Non-Resident Senior	\$80

Recommended 2016 Daily Rates:

Needham Individual (ages 2-59)	\$6
Needham after 6 PM	\$3
Needham Senior	\$3
Needham Senior after 6 PM	\$1.50
Non-Resident Individual	\$8
Non-Resident after 6 PM	\$3
Non-Resident Senior	\$4
Non-Resident Senior after 6 PM	\$1.50
Needham Guest Pass Booklet (10)	\$50
Non-Resident Guest Pass Booklet	\$70

SWIM LESSONS: Morning classes are offered at the Pool in four two-week sessions. Classes are 40 minutes long, for a total of 10 classes per session. Pre-school level classes are 30 minutes long, but also held in two week sessions for a total of 10 classes. The amount of time scheduled exceeds the recommendations of the Red Cross. Included in the lessons are safety lessons that are held outside of the water, which the staff tries to do on colder or rainy days when participants are more reluctant to enter the water! Adaptive Aquatics is a one-on-one class for children who are challenged to learn in a group setting. Schedules are arranged with the parent, for an equivalent of 10 classes, as it is not beneficial for all children in this program to attend classes each day. A number of individual “private” lessons are also scheduled. Revenue from lessons was \$13,020 with payroll/expenses at \$10,368 for a net gain of \$2,652.

Recommended 2016 Swim Lesson Rates:

Resident and Non-Resident (includes Adaptive Aquatics)	
2 week session with season badge	\$40
2 week session w/out badge	\$70
Individual 1 class lesson with season badge	\$20
Individual 1 class lesson without badge	\$25

The Pool staff will oversee free aquatics activities throughout the summer, and the Assistant Director will be looking to add fee-based programs. Free activities include Friday Fun Nights, deep water test clinics, “competitions” with the staff in the pool and on the beach (cannonball, water baseball, beach volleyball...)

NEEDHAM SHARKS: Since the days of swimming in the lake, there has been a swim team at Rosemary. Up until 1983, this was a Park and Recreation program, but with the implementation of Proposition 2 ½, the swim team was one of several programs that was shifted to a volunteer/parent run program. We are currently in discussions with the Needham Sharks Swim Team coach to bring the program back as a Park and Recreation program. Fee recommendations will be made at an upcoming meeting, once the program details are confirmed.