

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
February 11, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Christopher J. Gerstel, Chairman  
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman  
Michelle S. Geddes, Member  
Patricia M. Carey, Director

**ABSENT:** David C. DiCicco, Member  
Matthew M. Toolan, Member

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Rosemary Recreation Complex.

1. **Minutes of Meeting – January 28, 2019:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Geddes and was approved unanimously.
2. **Director’s Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Carey noted that she had received a request from Nobles & Greenough to use the track for their spring program, but she let them know that the High School and Pollard held the permit for after school use, so they are looking at other options. Mrs. Geddes asked when an update will be ready on the proposal for synthetic turf replacement. Ms. Carey stated that Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen has been visiting sites to see the different options in place and is close to having a recommendation for the Commission and Trustees of Memorial Park. The goal will be to have it out for bid in the spring, so that just prior to Town Meeting, the bids can be opened, and then awarded after Town Meeting if funded. Mr. Gerstel asked about the lifespan of the track, and Ms. Carey will get an update on that.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the report submitted by the Recreation Supervisor. Ms. Carey noted that programs are being cancelled for tomorrow due to the afternoon/evening storm. Mr. Gerstel was contacted by a member of the Select Board who was approached by a resident with interest in having a Pickleball program. Ms. Carey stated that the prior Assistant Director had it on her “to do” list but was out on leave, so Recreation Supervisor Angela O’Connor has met with some people and is looking at finding some gym space in the fall. Ms. Carey also noted that Ms. O’Connor will be offered the position of Assistant Director. Mrs. Chaston asked that Ms. O’Connor meet with the Commission on their goals for the pools.
4. **Discussion Items:**
  - A. **FY’20 Budgets:** Mr. Gerstel reported that he, Mrs. Chaston and Ms. Carey had met with the Finance Committee. Most of the discussion revolved around the four DSR-4 additional funding requests. One member of FinCom suggested that the three requests related to the pools be put forward as an individual warrant article rather than included in

the operating budget. If that option moved forward, the Town Manager would recommend that two years of funding be requested. Mrs. Chaston stated that she and Mr. Gerstel had said it would be taken under consideration, but both agreed that it was preferred to have the requests submitted through the operating budget. Mrs. Geddes noted that the DSR-4 requests were important to the residents. Mr. Gerstel has discussed the option with the Chairman of the Select Board, and he and Mrs. Chaston will reach out to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee to request that the additional funds be reviewed through the operating budget.

**B. Park Signs:** Mr. Gerstel asked that this discussion be moved to the next meeting when the full Commission is available to review and give input.

**C. Rosemary Recreation Complex – Construction, Operations, Memberships, Celebrations:** There was no new business for discussion at this meeting.

**D. CPC Proposals:** Mr. Gerstel has talked with the CPC Chairman Peter Pingitore. As there aren't enough existing funds for recreation-related projects, Mr. Pingitore asked if the Cricket fieldhouse project and the Dwight Field project could be delayed for another year. Ms. Carey has spoken to Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen about the Dwight project, which he had submitted, and he is supportive of delaying, and also looking into whether any additional scope should be considered for the 60' diamond. Mr. Olsen's priority is the replacement of the irrigation system at Cricket Field. Mr. Gerstel said that Park and Recreation can present three proposals at this week's CPC meeting, Cricket Field House, Rosemary projects, and playground improvements. The consensus was that the CPC could be told that the Commission was considering withdrawing the Cricket Fieldhouse, but would discuss at an upcoming meeting.

## **5. Action Items:**

**A. Special Event Requests:** The Commission reviewed the following annual Special Event request:

**Needham High School Rocketry Club:** Ms. Carey explained that this was a new club at the High School and they were looking to use Claxton to practice launching models that they would build each week. The practices will be on Thursdays from 3-4:30 PM, weather permitting, and on Saturdays March 16 and March 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 PM, weather permitting. Mrs. Geddes made a motion to approve the request from the Needham High School Rocketry Club to use Claxton Field for testing of model rockets on Thursdays in February and March and two Saturdays in March. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and was approved.

**6. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours:** None presented.

**7. Topics for Future Agendas:** Naming discussion for Rosemary.

- 8. Adjournment of Meeting:** Mrs. Geddes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.  
The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, CPRP  
Director