

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

**Minutes of Meeting
April 14, 2008**

PRESENT: Christopher R. Dollase, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chair
William R. Dermody, Member
Brian S. Nadler, Member
Philip V. Robey, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, Resident
Alex Maksymowicz, Metrowest Music Festival Organizer
Joe DiFazio, Metrowest Music Festival Organizer

The meeting convened at 7:00PM in the Board of Selectmen's meeting room located in the Town Hall.

1. **Minutes of Meeting March 24, 2008:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2008 meeting. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
2. **Financial Report:** None Presented
3. **Correspondence: EatWell / Be Fit May Walks:** A list of the walking events coordinated by members of the Eat Well/Be Fit committee was presented. The Park and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a Nature Scavenger Hunt on Thursday, May 15 from 4:30-5:30 at the Town Reservoir.
4. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported on the following items:
 - Debbie Winnick from the Needham Community Council will be working with Ms. Peirce to coordinate collection of food for the Needham Food Pantry during the summer months. Flyers will go out with program confirmations and a box will be set up at Rosemary Pool to collect food items.
 - The Community Gardeners have been contacted and a few people will not be returning. Those on the waiting list have been called for the open spots. The current garden volunteer is unable to continue as the liaison. Jeanne Gerber has volunteered to be the liaison this year.
 - Attended a MRPA Metro West meeting to discuss summer programs and summer staffing.
 - Currently there are 5 lifeguard positions open (2 have been offered) 1 booth/

maintenance position, 1 Outdoor Living counselor, 1 Playground counselor and 4 Sports Specialties counselors; additional interviews are scheduled

- The brochure bid has been opened and once references are checked the brochure will go to the printers.

5. Discussion Items:

A. Director's Report: Discussed later in the meeting.

B. Special Permit: Athletic field Lights: Discussed later in the meeting.

C. Field Study Update: Discussed later in the meeting.

D. Field Construction Update: Discussed later in the meeting.

E. Capital Budget Update: Discussed later in the meeting.

F. Rosemary Pool Spring Projects: Discussed later in the meeting.

G. Community Preservation Projects: Discussed later in the meeting.

H. Director's Project List: Discussed later in the meeting.

I. Other Business: Discussed later in the meeting.

6. Action Items:

A. Special Event Request: Metrowest Music Festival: Joe DiFazio and Alex Maksymowicz attended the meeting to inform the Commissioners about the Metrowest Musical Festival request. Joe DiFazio stated they would like to host the event at Claxton Field in the quarry area from 12:00-8:00PM and they are flexible on the Saturday chosen. They would use electricity from the building to power the equipment. Tickets would be sold at the gate at approximately \$5 to \$10 and the funds raised would go to the American Heart Association. They are working with a representative from the American Heart Association to secure insurance for the event. They also need to contact the Police Department to find out about police details and cost. They expect 50-75 people to attend and will advertise in Facebook. The Commissioners had questions about noise, notifying neighbors, parking, electrical power and clean up. Ms. Carey suggested the organizers meet with Lt. Kraemer at the Police Department to get an idea of what is needed for police support. She also suggested they schedule a time to meet her at Claxton and test some of the equipment to see if there is enough power for an event this size. Ms. Carey will be contacted after the meeting with Lt. Kraemer. Mr. Dollase thanked them for coming to the meeting.

5. Discussion Items:

A. Director's Report: Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.

B. Special Permit: Athletic field Lights: Ms. Carey shared information regarding the athletic field lights application submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals. A ZBA hearing will take place on Thursday, April 17, 2008. Board of Selectmen Chairman Jim Healy will give an overview of the Field of Dreams projects; Trustees of Memorial Park Chairman Dave DiCicco will provide support on behalf of the Trustees; and Mr. Dollase will speak on behalf of the Commission. Representatives from Gale Associates and MUSCO Lighting will be

available to answer technical questions. All legal abutters have been notified and an e-mail has been sent to neighbors and others with interest in the projects. The DeFazio project will also need approval from the Conservation Commission for the placement of a few poles within the wetlands buffer zone. Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the application for a special permit for lighting at DeFazio Park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robey and the motion was approved. Mr. Nadler made a motion to support the application for a special permit for lighting at Memorial Park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dermody and the motion was approved.

C. Field Study Update: The Sports Council is drafting a contract with the RAD Company for construction of the Memorial Park and DeFazio Park field construction projects. Construction at Memorial Park will likely begin the end of April. Ms. Carey is scheduling a meeting with the High School Athletic Director and the Northeastern University facilities manager regarding rules and regulations for using the track at the Northeastern University Dedham campus. She is also working with the Police and Fire Departments regarding medical flight landing areas during construction.

D. Field Construction Update: Ms. Carey stated DPW will go to the next Conservation Commission meeting to seek approval for the final step in replacing the storm drain pipe at DeFazio Park. Mr. Nadler asked if the Sport Council has limited funding would they choose lights over finishing the DeFazio Park south portion of the field. Mr. Nadler will talk to Bruce Herman from the Sports Council and ask him if there is a priority plan to finish the DeFazio Park south portion of the project or install lights. Ms. Carey will discuss this with the Sports Council construction team and will let them know that the Park and Recreation Commissioners would prefer construction to be completed first at the DeFazio south portion of the field and lights be secondary.

E. Capital Budget Update: Ms. Carey, Mr. Nadler, and Mr. Robey attended the Finance Committee meeting last week to discuss the Cricket building renovation capital budget request. The Finance Committee indicated the cost was too high due to the amount of excavation needed to make the parking area and the building ADA accessible. The Commissioners questioned the merit of the project verses the cost. The Commissioners agreed the building must be completely accessible if any renovations are to occur. Mr. Nadler suggested installing portable toilets temporarily to help the situation. Ms. Carey noted that the Commission had a prior understanding with neighbors that portable toilets would not be placed at Cricket. Mr. Dermody suggested the Park and Recreation Commission communicate to the Board of Selectman that Park and Recreation Commission is willing to go forward but needs to know if there is support from the Board of Selectmen to move this capital project forward. Ms. Carey noted that the Finance Committee is supportive of the tennis court renovations at Mills Field that will be on the May Special Town Meeting warrant.

F. Rosemary Pool Spring Projects: Park and Recreation and DPW will need an amendment to the Order of Conditions to the Conservation Commission to replace the pipes at Rosemary Pool. A resident has submitted a complaint about flooding in his yard when Rosemary Lake is drained. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Lance Remsen has been doing turbidity testing of the water and turbidity is higher now than during the draining. Town Counsel recommends going forward with draining the lake as there is no indication the draining is related to the high water level in the resident's yard. Ms. Carey is working on the bids for sandblasting the interior of Rosemary Pool and has included the final coat of paint on the walls in the bid. The DPW will paint the floor of the pool. Ms. Nadler asked Ms. Carey to keep track of the expenses for all of the preseason work being done by DPW and outside vendors.

G. Community Preservation Projects: Without an agreement in place, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick is recommending that the Community Preservation Committee withdraw the article to purchase the McCracken property and table it until the November Special Town Meeting. There is a citizens' petition on the warrant regarding the Town Hall renovation. The CPC is only able to vote on the proposal put before them, and not on other proposals. Currently there are only 4 projects seeking CPC approval: Trail Kiosks, Town Hall Renovation, High Rock Trails Project, and an appropriation to the Conservation Fund

H. Director's Project List: Reviewed list of projects that were submitted in writing prior to the meeting.

I. Other Business: Mr. Nadler thanked Ms. Carey for all of the effort she has put forth in scheduling the spring fields. She helped to bring together the Needham Soccer Club and Little League to work together to sort out field use. The Soccer Club gave up some space to assist Little League with their field crunch. Ms. Carey shared a photo of the storage boxes Little League has purchased for storage of equipment at the fields. Mrs. Chaston was at DeFazio field today and saw the High School baseball team banners on the fence. She noted they were small in size and unobtrusive. Ms. Carey noted the High School Athletic Director has rented a storage bin at Claxton for the Girl's Softball team supplies. The majority of the Claxton bathroom renovation is scheduled to be completed by the end of the week. Mr. Dermody congratulated Mr. Robey for winning another term as Park and Recreation Commissioner. He has served over 18 years.

A. Special Event Request: Metrowest Music Festival: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

B. Additional Summer Program Fees: Mr. Dermody made a motion to approve the Additional Summer Program Fees as listed in Appendix A. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Minutes of Meeting

April 14, 2008

Page 5 of 5

7. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting 9:10 PM. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director