

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

**Minutes of Meeting
June 24, 2019**

PRESENT: Christopher J. Gerstel, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman
David C. DiCicco, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Angela O'Connor, Assistant Director

ABSENT: Michelle S. Geddes, Member
Matthew M. Toolan, Member

GUEST: Mark Verville, President, Needham Boys Lacrosse

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Rosemary Recreation Complex.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting – June 10, 2019:** Mr. DiCicco made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and was approved unanimously.
- 2. Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Mr. Gerstel is not available to attend the July 8th meeting, and Mrs. Geddes has already noted she is not available. The Commission will change the meeting date to July 15th and cancel the July 8 and July 22 meetings. The Commission reviewed the Rosemary dam project outline. Ms. Carey will get additional information from DPW.
- 3. Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Mrs. Chaston has heard positive comments on the new sunset yoga program. Mr. Gerstel heard from participants that volunteer training was interesting and engaging. Ms. O'Connor explained the collaboration with Perfect Piece, a home support program for families with children with challenges.
- 4. Discussion Items:**
 - A. Lacrosse Wall Proposal:** Mr. Gerstel welcomed Boys Lacrosse President Mark Verville. Mr. Verville stated that Boys Lacrosse is willing to fund the installation of the lacrosse wall, but that it would be available for use by any sport. Pioneer Construction would be the general contractor. The original location was changed, as the prior one conflicted with the Golf Course lease and would require wetland permitting. Ms. Carey noted that she and Mr. Olsen were OK with the updated location but recommended adding an outfield fence at McLeod to provide additional safety for the baseball players. This is not part of the lacrosse project, and Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen has an estimate of \$30,000, which the Commission could fund through field clinic fees. Mr. Verville noted that they would like to do the project at the same time as the synthetic turf project, but Ms. Carey did not think that everything could be coordinated that

quickly. More input is needed from Mr. Olsen on the project. Mr. DiCicco asked for confirmation that the form work would be professionally done, and Mr. Verville stated that Pioneer Construction would bring in one of their forming companies to do the work. Mr. Gerstel said that a maintenance plan is needed, keeping up with any painting done on the wall as well as clean-up of vandalism.

- B. Eagle Scout Proposal:** Mrs. Chaston reported that she had Ms. Carey had met with Eagle Scout candidate Alex Koppel on his proposal to build stairs at the Garden Street trail access to the Rosemary trails. Though a hard project, Mrs. Chaston said it would benefit the neighbors or pedestrians using the path. Ms. Carey and the Town Engineer had met with him last month to provide guidance, and Ms. Carey gave the names of local landscape contractors who might be able to provide guidance on how to do the work. Mrs. Chaston noted that Mr. Koppel was going through the review and approval stage with the Scouts. The Commission supported the project.
- C. Summer Field Projects Updates:** Ms. Carey reported that the Cricket project started, today, with manual removal of the sod. The contractor started working at DeFazio on setting the posts for the new netting system and improvements on the current netting poles. Mr. Gerstel asked if the Closed Signs were up, yet. Ms. Carey noted that a lacrosse clinic finished up during the day, so DPW will be getting signs up. Mrs. Chaston asked about the McLeod sink holes. Ms. Carey said they were already repaired, and the field is monitored for any new holes.
- D. Park Ranger Concept:** Ms. Carey shared a concept that Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen had discussed about having some park rangers to assist with fields, including reminding people about the leash law, and checking on permits. If this was a concept of interest, more research could be done, and the Select Board could be asked for support when they meet this summer to discuss goals. A sample job description from Brookline was reviewed. Mrs. Chaston asked what type of permit issues there were. Ms. Carey said that organized groups without permits included adult football at Cricket, adult frisbee and adult cricket at Newman, and fitness instructors/private coaches at DeFazio. Mr. DiCicco was concerned that residents would not be able to use the fields when not under a permit. He recommended a fine be established for those groups and suggested that the user groups send field use information to visiting coaches. Mr. Gerstel attended the recent Memorial Park Trustee meeting and they discussed trash issues, so the park ranger could also assist with monitoring trash collection. Ms. Carey will ask the Town Manager to submit the issue to the Select Board for their goals discussion, noting the problems but without a specific solution suggested.
- E. Mills Field Request:** The Commission reviewed the request for the additional of athletic field lights on the 60' diamond at Mills from 14-year-old resident Luke Abruzese. Mr. DiCicco noted that the information didn't include a neighborhood survey, which is important when looking to add something like this to a neighborhood park. Ms. Carey will suggest that Mr. Abruzese discuss his idea with Needham Baseball and Softball who are looking at the option for Asa Small diamond at DeFazio.

F. Playgrounds Capital Planning: Ms. Carey has reached out to Parent Talk, Women's Club, SEPAC, and Needham Children's Center for some initial thoughts on Perry Park and DeFazio Park playgrounds. The Commission's initial consensus is that DeFazio is the older playground so more emphasis will go towards those improvements, with enhancements added to Perry.

G. Rosemary Recreation Complex: Mrs. Chaston asked how parking was on the busy days. Ms. Carey said that the lots are full and that there was a complaint from 145 Rosemary Street, today, about people using their lot, and that they will need to tow if it continues. Notices went out on social media and an e-mail to members. Signs will also be put up. Mr. Gerstel asked for weekly attendance information. Mrs. Chaston asked about shade. Ms. Carey said it was challenging to find a solution because of the width of the tiers and the wind. She will be asking for some input from an architect, as something more permanent is likely needed. Temporarily, the department is providing some small pop-up tents.

5. Action Items:

A. Special Event Request – Sean D. Biggs 5K: Ms. Carey noted that this is an annual request and that there haven't been any past issues. They get a permit through Select Board for the road race and from Building Maintenance for use of the school. Mr. DiCicco asked that they be reminded that there should be no music until after 8 AM. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the request from Sean D. Biggs Memorial Foundation to host the annual 5K using the outdoor locations at Broadmeadow on Sunday, November 17 from 6 AM – 12:30 PM, with a rain date of Sunday, November 24. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiCicco and passed unanimously.

6. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours: The Commission reviewed an e-mail request from resident Joe Weisburd asking that "health stations" be added at parks and trails. Mr. DiCicco reviewed the prior studies into these options by the NHS Robotics group and the Exchange Club. Ms. O'Connor said that fit clubs look for places like this to enhance their fitness training. Ms. Carey will draft a future capital item for the Commission's review. At Mrs. Chaston's request, Ms. Carey had asked DPW to provide a written update on the Big Belly program, as Mrs. Chaston is concerned with having the concrete pads sitting at the sites without units placed on them. The DPW did not respond in time for the meeting, but Ms. Carey said the most recent update was that the new packer still needed to have a special arm added to it to be able to handle the weight of the compacted trash. Mr. Gerstel asked about the speed monitors for DeFazio's driveway. Ms. Carey has not coordinated the purchase with the DPW, yet.

7. Topics for Future Agendas: Mrs. Chaston asked that the playground projects remain an agenda item for the near future. Mr. Gerstel asked for an update on the storage of the Chamber's Cove monuments during the sediment removal project.

8. **Adjournment of Meeting:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiCicco and the meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, CPRP
Director