

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

**Minutes of Meeting
November 10, 2008**

PRESENT: Brian S. Nadler, Vice Chair
William R. Dermody, Member
Christopher R. Dollase, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

ABSENT: Cynthia J. Chaston, Chairman
Philip V. Robey, Member

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, Resident

The meeting convened at 7:01PM at the Board of Selectmen's meeting room located in the Town Hall.

1. **Minutes of Meeting October 27, 2008:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2008 meeting. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the minutes from the October 27, 2008 meeting were approved.
2. **Financial Report:** None presented.
3. **Correspondence**
 - A. **Letter to Senator Kennedy re: Virginia Graeme Baker Pool Spa and Safety Act:** Ms. Carey sent a letter to Senator Kennedy requesting a one year delay in the implementation of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool Spa Safety Act. Ms. Carey has met with an engineer from Weston and Sampson and someone from their Aquatic Technology division to determine what needs to be done for the Rosemary Pool drains to be in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. Ms. Carey will share further information from Weston and Sampson as it is received.
 - B. **Future School Needs Committee Enrollment Projections:** Ms Carey shared the results of the Future School Needs Committee Enrollment Projections with the Commission.

4. Assistant Director Report:

- The Spooky Walk was a huge success with 226 participants. Ten volunteers from Mt. Ida College assisted.
- A young girl Mayta Cohen from the Rashi School organized her fellow students to participate in a clean up of Claxton Park on November 2, 2008.
- Ms. Peirce attended the MRPA Annual Conference in Westport MA on October 27 & 28th. One of the sessions she attended pertained to Nature Activities which she will use for a February Vacation Program.
- The Fall Ice Skating Program will end on November 13.
- The Turkey Hunt will take place on Saturday November 22 and the program is full. All the Commissioners are welcome to attend.
- The Nashoba Valley Ski Program is full.
- Winter/Spring Brochures are scheduled to be delivered to the printer by Nov. 17th.
- Ms. Peirce will attend a meeting on November 19th to discuss building use scheduling for the summer.
- Ms. Peirce and Ms. Carey have been researching on-line registration options. There have been two meetings with representatives from Peak Software. Included in the meetings have been members of the Technology Department and Public Facilities. The next meeting will include representatives from the Finance Department and the Treasurers Department. On-line registration can provide a convenient option for customers registering for programs and it can be used for fields and building scheduling. It would be ideal if the on line registration is available for spring pool and tennis badge registration and possibly volunteer program registration. That would give a testing period to see how the program is working and whether it should be offered for summer program registration.

5. Discussion Items:

A. Director's Report: A written report was submitted prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey, Mrs. Chaston and Mr. Nadler attended the budget hearing on November 1, 2008. Discussions included what would happen if Question 1 did not pass in the statewide election, pricing programs competitively and generating more revenue. Ms. Carey noted the successful visit from the Wall that Heals, the traveling Vietnam Memorial. She also noted the trails plan information would soon be available on the Town website.

B. Review Fields Construction Update: Ms. Carey noted surfacing and painting would be completed on the DeFazio track. The synthetic turf fields need to be lined. The sod inside the track is doing well and the 90 ft. diamond sod will be coming soon. DeFazio south will be over seeded and will need a long steady growing season which will make it unavailable for the 2009 spring season. Ms. Carey has met with Lance Remsen, Parks and Forestry Superintendent, and he

noted that Pollard Field has taken a beating with so much use this fall. High Rock and Cricket will be OK for the spring season. The Memorial Park fence has been moved off the street now just surrounding the baseball diamond. The baseball dugout will be completed over the winter.

C. Field Scheduling Update: Ms. Carey indicated the fall sports season is almost over. She has been working with the computerized lights with the different sports groups. Ms. Carey will set up a meeting with the Athletic Director. Once the High School schedule is completed she can move on to the community groups using spring fields. Ms. Carey and Lance Remsen met with the Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick to discuss storage needs for sport groups. A storage container will be purchased for DeFazio to house the track equipment.

D. Community Preservation Application: Currently the only project that would be eligible would be to purchase property.

E. Trail Project Update: The Trails Project was approved by the Board of Selectmen and they are supportive of the new trail maps and signage. Currently there are some small projects using volunteers to clean up the trails. The first major project will be to create a handicapped accessible trail around the Needham Reservoir including a small dock for fishing access.

E. Other Business: Mr. Dermody noted there were signs on the Claxton fence that were for-profit organizations and he did not know if he should take them down or not. Ms. Carey said she will go by and take down any signs that are not Needham non profit activities. Mr. Nadler suggested discussing having a theme of the month to be discussed at the meetings. Ms. Carey will add to the next meeting agenda. Mr. Dollase announced the Newman PTC is forming a Newman School Playground renovation committee and the Assistant Principal is the liaison to the committee. Ms. Carey noted the new Director of Student Health at the School Department has begun sending her monthly summaries of school related accidents.

6. Action Items:

A. Community Preservation Act Legislative Amendment Bills: Ms. Carey shared a synopsis of CPA legislative changes-HB4820. Mr. Dollase suggested having all 5 Commissioners present to discuss. Mr. Nadler will discuss at the Community Preservation Committee meeting. Discussion is tabled until the next meeting.

- B. Accept Exchange Club Donation of New Playground Equipment at Claxton Field:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to accept the donation of new playground equipment at Claxton Field from the Exchange Club. Mr. Dermody abstained from voting. Mr. Nadler and Mr. Dollase voted and the donation was approved.
- C. Winter/Spring Program Fees:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the Winter/Spring Fees as presented by the Director and Assistant Director and as seen on Attachment A. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:16 PM. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:16PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director