

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
March 28, 2022**

- PRESENT:** Cynthia Chaston, Christopher Gerstel, Dina Hannigan
- ABSENT:** Michelle Geddes
- STAFF:** Stacey Mulroy, Kristen Wright
- GUESTS:** Jane Volden, Jeff Heller, Lisa Rhodes, Judy Shoobe, Rinaz Malla, Brian Weinstein

Ms. Chaston called the meeting to order at 7:04PM

**1. Open Forum – Public Comment**

None presented.

**2. Pickleball**

Ms. Chaston provided a background of what the Commission and Department have discussed and done to support Pickleball in the Town.

Ms. Volden presented a letter to the Commission with her concerns and wishes to improve access, and Pickleball program. Ms. Volden also questioned the high expense of a badge and the rental cost for a net. Ms. Mulroy responded to the questions asked, updated Ms. Volden of the additional support that has already been put in place for the addition of Pickleball in Needham and stated that there was no badge fee for Pickleball at this time as it is not a permanent court (only taped lines) and only one set of courts. Ms. Mulroy stated that there may be a fee in the future. Mr. Gerstel stated that the current efforts are a part of a pilot program.

When asked about indoor space, Ms. Chaston explained that indoor space is not under the jurisdiction of Park and Recreation.

Mr. Heller discussed reservations and requiring badges at night when the lights are on. Mr. Heller also spoke on behalf of tennis players and suggested creating pickleball courts at the Pollard court space. Ms. Mulroy discussed Pollard and that the access would not be permitted during the school day and that the space is actively used by the Pollard team for outdoor gym classes.

Ms. Rhoades discussed the need to have additional courts as well as some issue with tennis players minding the posted playing rules. Ms. Rhones has also asked for pickleball players to have priority at the identified pickleball courts over tennis players.

Mr. Heller stated that tennis courts are often full during the season and that he has previously waited more than an hour to get onto a court.

The Commission stated that they would continue to look for ways to be inclusive of both pickleball and tennis and hopes that pickleball players and tennis players can coexist until additional courts can be created.

#### **7A. Fee Approvals**

The Commission reviewed the recommended fees.

**Mr. Gerstel made a motion to approve the fees as recommended. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

The Commission discussed the scholarship program and accessibility to the various department programming.

#### **6B. Special Event Approvals**

Carter Memorial Nursery School – Fun Run

**Mr. Gerstel made a motion to approve the Fun Run be held by Carter Memorial Nursery School on Sunday, April 9, 2022 from 3:15pm -6:00pm in a location to be determined by the Department for a fee of \$250. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

Broadmeadow PTC – 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun on the Field

**Ms. Hannigan made a motion to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun on the Field be held by the Broadmeadow PTC on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:30pm – 5:00pm at Broadmeadow Upper and Lower fields with no fee. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

Sunita Williams PTC – Sunita and Eliot Sports Competition

**Ms. Hannigan made a motion to approve the Sunita and Eliot Sports Competition be held by the Sunita Williams PTC on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm – 7:00pm at a location to be determined by the Department with no fee. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

Needham Running Club – Needham Backyard Ultra Run

**Ms. Hannigan made a motion to approve the Needham Backyard Ultra Run be held by the Needham Running Club on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am – 9:30pm at the Claxton Quarry for a fee of \$500. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

Needham High School – Senior Picnic

**Mr. Gerstel made a motion to approve the Senior Picnic be held by Needham High School on Tuesday, May 31 from 6:00pm - 9:00pm at the Upper Highschool Multipurpose field with no fee. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

Cub Scout Pack 23 – Annual Rocket Day

**Mr. Gerstel made a motion to approve the Annual Rocket Day event be held by Cub Scout Pack 23 on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am - 12:30pm at the Claxton Quarry with no fee. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

**7C. Meeting Minutes**

March 14, 2022

**Mr. Gerstel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 14, 2022. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

**9. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours**

Ms. Mulroy discussed withdrawing the Boat Launch application currently in front of the Community Preservation Committee.

**Mr. Gerstel made a motion withdraw the CPC application for the Boat Launch project. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.**

**6B. Greene's Field**

Ms. Mulroy discussed permitting the consumption of alcohol under the tent that will be placed at Greene's field this year due to the construction at the Town Common.

The Commission discussed the capacity of the tent.

**Mr. Gerstel made a motion to waive the restrictions of Town of Needham by-law 3.1.9 and allow for the consumption of alcohol on Greene's field during the 2022 field season while the public tent is up. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

**3. Chair's Update**

No presented.

**4. Director's Report**

Ms. Mulroy reviewed the Director's Report.

The Commission discussed the fields opening at the end of the week. Ms. Mulroy stated that with the forecasted rain grass fields will not open until April 4<sup>th</sup> but the synthetic turf will open April 1.

The Commission discussed the DeFazio parking lot. Ms. Mulroy stated that if the Commission would like, the Parks team may be able to level the surface every other week but the department would be charged overtime.

The Commission thanked Ms. Mulroy for her consistent professionalism.

**6A. New Commissioner**

Ms. Mulroy and Ms. Chaston discussed the process of recommending a Commissioner to complete Mr. William's term. Ms. Mulroy will send out the information of the applicants that have been received and stated that Select Board Vice Chair Marianne Cooley would also meet with the applicants representing the Select Board. Ms. Chaston stated that they would like to present the recommendation to the Select Board at the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**6D. Fees**

Discussed earlier in the meeting

**6E. Capital Projects**

Discussion held until the next meeting.

**6F. CPC**

No updates presented.

**6G. Playground Priorities**

Discussion held until the next meeting.

**8. Topics for Future Meetings**

- Playground priorities
- Scholarships
- Capital Projects

**10. Next Meetings**

The Commission reviewed the next meeting dates. The April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held via Zoom. The second April meeting will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

**11. Adjournment of Business Meeting**

**Ms. Hannigan moved to adjourn the March 28, 2022, Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 9:10pm. Ms. Chaston seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright  
Recording Secretary