

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
May 13, 2009**

PRESENT: Cynthia J. Chaston, Chairman
Brian S. Nadler, Vice Chairman
Christopher R. Dollase, Member
Thomas M. Jacob, Member
Philip V. Robey, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director

ABSENT: Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUEST: Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor

Mr. Nadler opened the meeting at 6:35 PM in the Newman School Media Center.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of April 27, 2009:** Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 27, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dollase and passed unanimously.
- 2. Financial Report – None Presented**
- 3. Correspondence – None Presented**
- 4. Assistant Director’s Report – None Presented**
- 5. Discussion Items:**
 - A. Director’s Report:** Ms. Carey noted the rumor that had been circulating about non-residents being given permits to use the new athletic fields. She restated that all groups with permits are Needham based. Most groups play out-of-town teams, so there are non-residents using the fields with Needham groups. The rumor centered around the Boys Lacrosse program. They are part of a league that holds Friday night round robin events, and the Needham group participates at all times. They are not always the final game in the round robin, so they have been reminded that there needs to be Needham people present until the final game concludes, as they are responsible for the use as the host team.
 - B. Field Construction Update:** Ms. Carey reported that the bulk of the construction work is completed, and the contractor is pulling its equipment away. The areas that are being seeded have been given their first seeding,

and will be monitored and overseeded as needed. The sodded areas held up well over the winter, but only McLeod diamond at DeFazio is showing root growth and is ready for mowing. The field inside the track (DeFazio # 3) isn't showing the growth as quickly. The Soccer Club has asked if DeFazio # 3 might be available for Monday tournament games on May 25th, but at this time, it does not look likely. At Memorial Park, the major issue that needs to be resolved is related to foul balls going outside of the park, including into a neighbor's yard. The Sports Council has discussed the issue with the design firm and recommendations will be provided. Ms. Carey is also trying to get specific information on where balls are landing to help with the creation of a solution.

- C. Summer Preparation:** The summer staff is fully hired, including at the pool. The number of applicants was higher than what is typically received, and applications are still being sought. The pool is empty and the clean up work is just about done in preparation for painting. The new drain cover, to meet the federal regulations, should be put in place within the week, weather permitting.
- D. Other Business:** Mr. Dollase reported a net at the Mills tennis courts was down, but Ms. Carey noted that it had already been repaired. Mr. Robey asked when the High School tennis courts would be completed. Ms. Carey reported the construction work had been completed in the fall and the nets were put up in March and the courts had been in full use since then. The High School teams are using Newman and High School courts for their matches. Mr. Nadler has spoken to some skateboarders. There is a possibility of a large park being built near the Zakim Bridge. Shrewsbury and Taunton have large parks that might be good for field trip sites. Mr. Jacob noted the amount of trash being left behind at parks and the need to fix the trash problem. Mr. Nadler asked Ms. Carey to place this topic on the next meeting agenda. Mr. Robey asked about the "Big Belly" units that are able to hold more trash than normal cans. Ms. Carey noted that DPW Highway had some located at high trash areas, but that they cost about \$4000 a unit, and would not decrease the problems at parks. Often, the trash cans are empty and people just haven't made the effort to bring the trash to the cans. Ms. Carey also noted that the Athletic Director search has moved forward. She participated on the interview panel last week, with 13 candidates coming before a 13 member panel. There were four that were noted as top candidates, but that will be narrowed to three and those candidates will come back to spend a day in Needham meeting coaches, students and others at the schools. A parent night will be held the following week with all 3 candidates.

6. Action Items:

- A. Preparation for ZBA 5/21 Hearing:** Mrs. Chaston, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Jacob and Ms. Carey will attend the hearing. A representative from Gale Associates will attend on behalf of Gale, the contractors RAD, and the lighting subcontractor MUSCO. The Town Manager is meeting with the representatives before the meeting to insure that all preparation work has been done. Mr. Nadler suggested having the end-of-spring use public hearing on lights with the Memorial Park Trustees on June 22nd, so that a date can be given at the ZBA hearing. Ms. Carey will consult with the Memorial Park Trustees to see if that dates works for them.
- B. Track Club Temporary Storage Request:** John Hrones, on behalf of the Needham Track Club, has requested permission to locate a temporary storage container at DeFazio Park to hold the track equipment. In the past, it was stored at the Memorial Park building when the track was located at that park. Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the request for a temporary storage container to be located in the parking lot at DeFazio, with the location to be approved by the Director and a decision to be made on how long the container can stay after more information is available on the implementation of the new permanent storage building. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and it was passed.
- C. 2nd May Meeting Date:** The Commission is scheduled to meet on the 4th Monday in May which happens to be Memorial Day. It was agreed that the May 25th meeting would be cancelled and the Commission would wait until the 2nd Monday in June to hold a meeting. The Commission's next meeting will be on Monday, June 8th at Town Hall.

- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robey and was passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM and the members attended Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, Director