

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 12, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Thomas M. Jacob, Chairman  
Michael J. Retzky, Vice Chairman  
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member  
Brian S. Nadler, Member  
Andrea L. Shorthose, Member  
Patricia M. Carey, Director  
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

**GUESTS:** Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor  
Dave DiCicco, Memorial Park Trustee  
Matthew Toolan, Resident  
Ed Olsen, Parks and Forestry Superintendent

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of February 27, 2012:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky and the motion was approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Ms. Carey and Mr. Retzky went to the PPBC meeting to review the Cricket Feasibility Study. The concept of a new prefab building as an alternative to renovating the existing Cricket building was discussed. There was discussion regarding the lengthy procurement process for town purchases. Ms. Carey noted the new bicycle racks will be installed this week at various parks and schools in Town.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.
4. **Discussion Items:**
  - A. **DeFazio Projects:** Ms. Carey reported there are a few sink holes that will be filled this week. The DPW is sodding the goal mouths at Conroy Field to repair damage from the High School Ultimate Frisbee Team using the field without permission. She also announced the Needham Soccer Club has chosen to postpone their opening day until April 9<sup>th</sup> to let the fields have an extra week to grow. Mr. Retzky reported one of the track lights is out and needs to be replaced. Ms. Carey reported the parking lot bid documents are available.

- B. Greene's Field Playground Update:** The Greene's Field Playground Committee completed the study phase of the project and they are currently forming a fundraising committee to raise between \$150,000-\$175,000 for playground equipment. Ms. Carey will prepare a concept report for the Board of Selectmen. The Committee will need to apply to the Board of Selectmen for a license in order to begin the fundraising process.
- C. Webster Street Renovation:** Ms. Carey reported Webster Street will be renovated from West Street to Highland Avenue. DPW is suggesting widening the street near Avery Field to create more parking. The neighbors are very supportive and the project should move forward with in the next year.
- D. Field Scheduling Update:** The spring field scheduling is almost completed. Groups will have the final schedule by the end of the week. The Soccer Club will not begin their season until April 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Carey notified all the other groups regarding the Soccer Clubs decision and asked them to stay off the designated Soccer Club fields. Mrs. Chaston reported there was parking on Central Avenue across from Claxton Field during a baseball event.
- E. Ridge Hill Working Group:** Ms. Carey and Mr. Jacob have attended a few working group meetings to discuss the future use of the Ridge Hill parcel. The group is recommending the property be used for educational and recreational purposes.
- F. Community Center Concept:** Recently a round table discussion was held with a variety of community groups and members of the Community Center Committee. Another meeting is scheduled for March 30 to review information on current resources available in Needham. Ms. Carey discussed the idea of a Community Center Campus that would include the library, Memorial Park, Rosemary Pool and the new Senior Center. The Community Center Committee is continuing to clarify its mission.
- G. Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey is working with Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick reviewing the feasibility study. Rosemary Pool will remain on the agenda.
- H. Trails Projects:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Mr. Nadler suggested a community service project to create a documentary about the trails program possibly enlisting the help of Needham Cable Television.
- I. Walker-Gordon Project Update: Parks and Forestry Superintendent** Ed Olsen stated that Beta sent back the specs that needed to be revised and hopefully it will be ready to be approved by Louise Miller before she leaves her position with the Town on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

- J. Town-wide Survey:** Ms. Carey noted that every 2 years a survey is sent to all Needham households. The Town Manager asked if Park and Recreation would like to have a question regarding Rosemary Pool on the next survey. The Commissioners would like to have a question on the survey and will come to the next Commission meeting with one or two questions to review for the survey.
- 5. Action Items:**
- A. DeFazio Equipment Storage Location:** Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen reported the proposed prefab storage building would be 12W'x 20L'x 12'H built with similar stone that is on the Carelton Pavilion next to the electrical building. Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve a 12'W x 20'L x 12'H storage building at DeFazio Field. The storage building estimated cost is \$50,000 - \$60,000. The Commissioners recommend that the interior of the building have lights. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- B. Citizen Petition on Town Meeting Warrant:** Mr. Nadler made a motion for the Park and Recreation Commission to take a position on the article "Pesticide free zone on land owned or managed by the Town of Needham" that Park and Recreation does not recommend passage. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion. Mr. Olsen noted that when used by educated users who read labels pesticides and insecticides can be used safely. Homeowners using pesticides on lawns can be dangerous because the product gets on to the sidewalks where it gets washed into the sewer drains and ground water. The Town Integrated Pest Management Policy clearly states applying pesticides is the last course of action. The last time Parks and Forestry used a pesticide on a field was in 2007 and it was applied by a contracted professional company. Mr. Olsen recommends that japanese beetle grubs be approved for pesticide management due to the damage they cause to the fields. Acelepryn is a safe and effective pesticide that could help to get rid of the japanese beetle grub. A vote was taken and the motion was approved to take a position against the article for a "Pesticide free zone on land owned or managed by the Town of Needham".
- C. Women's Club Request: Sign:** A request was made by the Needham Women's club to place a banner at Greene's field to advertise a Garden Tour. Mr. Retzky made a motion to deny the request to put up a sign at Greene's Field. He suggested they pursue placing a banner at Claxton Field fence and at the Memorial Park sign board. Mrs. Chaston and Mr. Nadler recues themselves from the vote. Ms. Shorthose, Mr. Retzky and Mr. Jacob voted to approve the motion to deny the request to put up a banner at Greene's Field.

- D. NHS Athletic Director Request: Cricket Portable Toilet:** Ms. Carey reported the High School Athletic Director is requesting to have a portable toilet located at Cricket Field in the same location as last year until the plumbing is turned on in the Cricket Building. Mr. Retzky made a motion to allow the High School Athletic Director to place a portable toilet in the same location as last year at Cricket Field until the plumbing is turned on in the Cricket Building. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- E. Special Event Request: Cub Scout Pack 7:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the Special Event Request from Cub Scout Pack 7 to have an overnight Camp Out at Camp Nehoiden on May 11-12 or rain date May 25-26, 2012. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- F. Special Event Request: Fastpitch:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the Special Event requests from Fastpitch Softball as long as a Needham representative is present during all of the games. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- G. Special Event Request: Parent Talk:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the Special Event request from Parent Talk to host Barn Babies at the DeFazio tot lot on April 22, 2012 from 9:00AM-2:00PM. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- H. Special Event Request: Friends of Needham Music:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the Special Event request made by the Friends of Needham Music to host a Sunset BBQ at the field next to the High School tennis courts on June 13, 2012 from 3:00-8:00PM with approval from the Needham Soccer Club. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Mr. Nadler asked if the organization is 501c3 organization and if they have insurance. Ms. Carey inquire.
- I. Summer 2012 Fees:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the 2012 Summer Program Fees, as recommended by the Director and Assistant Director and seen under Appendix A; and that the Summer 2012 pool fees be set at the same rates as Summer 2011, and as seen in Appendix A.. Ms. Shorthose seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

**6. Topics for future Agendas:**

- 128 Lacrosse & Rocket Lacrosse 501c3 documentation. If documentation is submitted they need to attend a meeting to review their special event request.

**7. Adjournment:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50PM. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP  
Assistant Director