

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

**Minutes of Meeting
December 14, 2015**

PRESENT: David C. DiCicco, Chairman
Matthew M. Toolan, Vice Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Christopher J. Gerstel, Member
Michael J. Retzky, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director

GUESTS: *YMCA Board:* Janet Jankowiak, Connie Kaufman
Town of Needham – Assistant Town Manager: Christopher Coleman
Community Center of Needham: Amy Hurley
Resident: John Fountain

Mr. DiCicco called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM in the Community Room at the Library.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting: November 9, 2015:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 9, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2. Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report.
- 3. Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Fink highlighted the December 4th TGIF Night with Bubble Soccer. She also reminded the Commission of Winter-Spring registration beginning December 16th at 9:00 AM.
- 4. Discussion Items**
 - a. Rosemary Pool Design and Pool Design Advisory Committee:** Mr. Toolan reviewed BH+A's building concept presentation that was given at the Permanent Public Building Committee on November 16, 2015. Three building options were presented. Option 1 would keep the original building, move the bathrooms to the current storage area, move the filter and storage to the left of the of the current building, add a program space on the second floor, and add on an elevator and stairs to the right side of the building. Option 2 is a three level building with Town office space on the third floor. Option 3 would be all new construction with the bathrooms on the first floor to the left and keeping the filter and storage where it is currently. The cost options were discussed as a new building would almost be the same price as renovating. PPBC would prefer new construction over a renovation. Mr. Toolan gave an update of the Rosemary Pool Advisory Committee meeting that was November 19, 2015. At the meeting, Mr. Toolan and Mr. Gerstel led the committee through the BH+A presentation. The advisory

committee supported a hybrid option with the bottom floor of option 3 and the top floor of option 1. Mr. DiCicco, Mr. Toolan and Ms. Carey met with Selectmen Chairman Moe Handel and Matt Borrelli, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, Public Facilities Director Steve Popper, Project Manager Hank Haff, Assistant Town Manager Dave Davison, and Assistant Town Manager Chris Coleman to discuss the addition of office spaces. The Commission feels that the addition of office spaces could hurt the project and there wouldn't be enough parking in the summer to support the offices and summer programming. Currently in the concept plans for the parking lot, there are 67 spaces in the bottom lot and 26 in the upper lot. If office space is added, an additional parking lot within the slope of the hill with 27 spaces would need to be added. BH+A is concerned about the slope of the driveway in the winter. Mrs. Chaston is still nervous about the cost and wants to know the cost of the base project. Ms. Carey noted that estimates were being developed, but that there were still too many options under review for solid estimates. Mr. Retzky prefers option 3 with the new construction as the construction would be less challenging. He also suggested that the building stay out of the hill as it would add cost to the project. Mr. DiCicco said that the Commission would not be able to make a decision tonight as they would need to see what BH+A presents at tonight's PPBC meeting. The Commission will meet again on December 21, 2015 to continue to review building options. Ms. Carey included the two applications that were submitted to the CPC that impact Park and Recreation. The first application was for the additional design funds for Rosemary Pool and the second was from DPW to dredge Rosemary Lake. The hope is that the dredging could be done during pool construction, and that approval could be granted to drain the lake for both projects, as a cost saving measure. Mr. Gerstel presented the wish list of amenities that was compiled by the Advisory Committee. Mr. DiCicco and Mr. Toolan met with the Community Center of Needham (CCN) representatives to better understand their mission and what they are looking for as far as community space. Needham resident John Fountain reminded the Commission that the seniors do not have any outdoor space at the Center of the Heights and he would like to see the seniors have a weekly trip to the Rosemary facility. He would really like to see a bocce court and shuffleboard at the complex.

- b. Hillside School:** Ms. Carey reported that the Town is still doing the review work on the Owen's property to insure there are no major concerns prior to the sale.
- c. Land Swap Proposal:** Ms. Carey presented a draft proposal for property jurisdiction transfer. Mrs. Chaston noted that the changes are primarily parcels that are already under the administration of Park and Recreation. Mr. Retzky supports the transfer of the properties. Mr. DiCicco would like to continue the discussion of all parcels at DeFazio being transferred to Park and Recreation. Mr. Toolan does not see the benefit to the Commission, who is not gaining any

additional property for use. The Commission would be giving up parcels in return for parcels already under their administration.

- d. Eversource: Tree Removal, Underground Installation:** Mr. DiCicco and Mr. Gerstel will join Ms. Carey at a site meeting with Eversource to discuss the tree removal project at DeFazio. Eversource is planning on using a machine on the railroad tracks that would pull the trees up the hill rather than going across the field. Mr. Toolan raised the concern about player and spectator safety now that the trees would be gone. He is concerned that the hill would be more inviting to people and he is concerned about the protection of the property due to runoff. Ms. Carey said those issues will be part of the mitigation agreement. Eversource is working on another project that could possibly bring electric lines below ground within the Greendale Avenue property under the Commission's jurisdiction. The location under discussion is the former gravel pit and access path to Greendale Avenue. Once Eversource has a concept, a meeting will take place with the Commission, and a public hearing will be held.
- e. Food Trucks:** Mr. DiCicco and Ms. Carey met with the Mr. Handel, Mr. Borrelli and Ms. Fitzpatrick to discuss food trucks in Needham. Mr. DiCicco said he would be interested in having food trucks in a park one day a week.
- f. Trash in Parks:** Mr. DiCicco, Mr. Gerstel, Ms. Carey and Ms. Fink met with Greg Smith, Superintendent of the Recycling and Transfer Station, to discuss trash at parks. Mr. DiCicco found it helpful to hear the trash and recycling pick-up schedule. Mr. Retzky commented that he would like to see more trashcans with lids to help with illegal dumping.
- g. Field Scheduling Summit Planning:** The field scheduling summit will be at the Commission's January 11th meeting.
- h. Projects Update: Newman, Eastman, Mills, Rail Trail, Aqueduct Trail:** Ms. Carey reported that the construction fencing at Newman and Eastman would be coming down within the week. All pathways and trails are now open. There will be no field usage until the spring. The Rail Trail fencing is complete and stone dust installation will begin on Tuesday. Mills Field's major construction is completed. Landscaping and some small projects will be completed in the spring. The Aqueduct Trail route is being finalized with Olin College. Once an MWRA permit is granted to the Town, the MWRA will remove the fencing and no trespassing signs. Mrs. Chaston asked about the status for a new restroom at Mills. Ms. Carey said that bid documents would go out over the winter. The bathrooms should be installed in Spring of 2016.
- i. FY'17 Operating and Capital Budgets:** Mr. DiCicco and Ms. Carey met with the Town Manager, Assistant Town Managers, and liaisons from the Finance

Committee, for the Town Manager's review of operating and capital budget submissions.

5. Action Items

A. 2016 Winter/Spring Fees: Mr. Toolan asked if fees could be reviewed so that programs with similar time frames would have the same fee. Ms. Carey explained that fees couldn't be used to raise money, and that they were set based on the actual anticipated costs. Mr. Toolan made a motion to accept the 2016 Winter/Spring fees as recommended by the Director and Assistant Director. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the motion was approved unanimously.

B. December Meetings: The Commission will have a special meeting on December 21, 2015 to discuss the Rosemary Pool building design.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: None

7. Motion to Adjourn: Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM. The Commission joined the Permanent Public Building Committee at their meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Fink, CPRP
Assistant Director