

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

**Minutes of Meeting
September 26, 2016**

PRESENT: Matthew M. Toolan, Chairman
Christopher J. Gerstel, Vice Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Michelle S. Geddes, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director

ABSENT: David C. DiCicco, Member

GUESTS: *Community Center of Needham:* Deb Whitney
Resident: Les Kalish

Mr. Toolan called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM in the Charles River Room of the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of September 12, 2016:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel. The minutes of September 12, 2016 were approved unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Carey reminded the Commission of the ribbon cutting at Eliot Elementary School for the Aqueduct Trail. Ms. Carey will get the date and time to the Commission.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission read the written report.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - A. Greendale Trail- Modera Needham: Modera Needham is concerned about people walking through their construction zone while using the Greendale Trail. A section of the trail could be closed for possibly up to two years as Modera Needham owns that piece of the trail and does not have to grant the required easement until occupancy. Mrs. Chaston requested the Commission's response to include some type of access before occupancy. Mr. Toolan recommended asking them for a reasonable accommodation with signage and a temporary barrier. The Commission understands that from time to time part of the trail may not be available, but felt that a close down for the full construction period was not appropriate. Ms. Carey will respond to Modera Needham.
 - B. **Rosemary Recreation Complex Project**

- i. Design:** Currently the project is in the middle of the Conservation permit which is expected to continue later this week. BH+A will provide information requested from the first meeting, and respond to questions from the site visit. The sediment removal project continues to move forward, and from informal meetings with state agencies, there appears to be support for a drawdown of the lake for the project. The Planning Board will have an informal discussion on the Rosemary Recreation Project this week, prior to the application being submitted. The request for a variance for the elevator will be submitted, after a review with the Needham Commission on Disabilities. The next set of cost estimates is being developed now. Mr. Toolan asked for updated information on solar blankets for the lap pool, and the fencing around the facility.
- ii. Financing:** Mr. Toolan noted that Finance Committee liaisons Tom Jacob and Rick Lunetta have asked to meet with Mr. Toolan prior to the upcoming Capital Facilities meeting.
- iii. Programming:** No update provided.
- iv. Marketing:** Mr. Toolan is updating his May presentation for the upcoming October 24th meeting.

The Commission reviewed a letter submitted by Mrs. Paul T. Sullivan. She supports the renovation, but asked some design questions that were already resolved earlier in the project.

- C. Meeting Coverage:** The Commission reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule provided by Ms. Carey.
- D. DeFazio Parking Barriers:** Ms. Carey presented a plan for the DeFazio parking lot which includes adding orange barriers with reflectors. The barrels would be filled with water so that they can't be moved easily, but can be emptied and moved out of place in the winter. The Commission set a fee for clinics using the fields, intending to have it be used for synthetic turf replacement. There is about \$100,000 currently collected from that fee that could be used to help fund this project, as the synthetic turf funding has already been put aside in a special account. Mrs. Chaston suggested asking the Police Department to assist for a short period of time, to help reduce issues with speed. Mrs. Chaston raised a concern about the lights in the parking lot. There was a recent issue with fuses that has been resolved. Mrs. Chaston expressed that the woman's bathroom was not clean. Ms. Carey provides cleanliness reports to the Public Facilities Department that oversees the cleaning company. Mrs. Chaston suggested having the Board of Health speak to Public Facilities about the lack of cleanliness as it is a health issue. Ms. Geddes recommended a bright rope go in between the barriers to avoid "drive thru". Mr. Toolan would like to see more lights in the corner of the "kid zone" as it is very dark. Mrs. Chaston proposed adding lights if needed

to make the area safer. Ms. Carey reported that Public Facilities will check the lights and might be able to change the strength of the lights or redirect them. Mr. Gerstel suggested a machine to record speeds at the entrance of the lot. Mrs. Chaston made a motion that the Park and Recreation Commission approve the use of clinic fees, not to exceed \$50,000, for safety improvements to the DeFazio parking lot including parking barriers, signs and possible lighting improvements. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

E. Special Town Meeting: no additional information.

F. Greendale Avenue “Parcel 74”: Mr. Toolan noted that the Board of Selectmen removed the parcel for consideration for seasonal DPW storage.

G. Social Media: Mr. Toolan recommended that the Chairman and Director be notified of any social media comments that may need a response. Typically, responses will be factual or provide connections to information, but will not be part of a debate.

5. Action Items

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Mr. Gerstel has been asked by some sports groups for consideration to have advertising at parks to assist sport organizations with their fundraising. Ms. Carey will get some initial information.

7. Adjournment: Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Fink, CPRP
Assistant Director