

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

**Minutes of Meeting
December 16, 2019**

PRESENT: Christopher J. Gerstel, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman
Matthew M. Toolan, Member
Michelle S. Geddes, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Angela O'Connor, Assistant Director

ABSENT: David C. DiCicco, Member

GUEST: Kristen Wright, Community Preservation Committee
Timothy McDonald, Director - Department of Health and Human Services
Daniel Gilmartin, Walker Pond Watershed Association
Barbara Hauschka, Walker Pond Watershed Association
Peter Hauschka, Walker Pond Watershed Association
Roy Cramer, Walker Pond Watershed Association
Mark Ettinger, Walker Pond Watershed Association

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM at the Rosemary Recreation Complex.

1. **Minutes of Meeting – November 5, 2019:** Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs.Chaston. The motion was approved.
2. **Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Carey noted the next meeting dates would be on January 6th and 27th.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. O'Connor gave a brief overview of the all the programs. Ms. O'Connor discussed that Mr. Keane has been moving forward with the 1775 Needham Walk.
4. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **Rosemary Sediment Removal Project:** Mr. Gerstel asked if Ms. Carey to reach out to Mr. Tony DelGaizo. Ms. Carey noted that she has reached out to Mr. DelGaizo and that he would be attending a meeting in January. Mr. Toolan noted that he was very anxious about the dredging project being finished before summer. Mr. Gerstel stated that the commission would like an update with a better time line.
 - B. **Walker Pond CPC Request-**The commission reviewed a CPC request from the Walker Pond Watershed Association (see attached documents). Ms. Carey noted that there are seven owner abutters, five that reside on Walker Lane and two that reside on Central Ave. Ms. Carey noted that the Park and Recreation Department owns 80% of Walker Pond and

20% is divided up amongst the neighbors. Mr. Gerstel stated that the commission has a concern with the septic line. Mr. Timothy McDonald stated that they have been working on a forcibly agreement for the neighborhood to have to hook up the line to the town. Ms. Carey stated that the CPC has postponed the discussion of this matter. Mrs. Chaston noted that her daughter works for the ESS as a Coastal Zone Specialist, if there is any conflict of interest. Mr. Gerstel welcomes the representatives from the Walker Pond Watershed Association. Mr. Gerstel states that the commission would like to have an open dialoged of where the process is with the request. Mr. Dan Gilmartin stated that there are 5 to 6 other representatives that have been meeting for the last 3-4 years about this project. Mr. Gilmartin stated that in 2017 there was \$10,000 of funding approved for a study to be done through ESS (see attached documents) Mr. Roy Cramer noted that the pond cannot be used and that it is overrun by milfoil and there is a layer of algae on the pond. Mr. Cramer noted that there is a ecological effect and that the wildlife will die out. Mr. Mark Ettinger noted he would like to see Park and Recreation be a co-sponsor to help support with the project. Mr. Cramer noted he agreed with Mr. Ettinger and would like to see Park and Recreation sit at the table with the association. Mrs. Chaston noted that the commission was very surprised to see how far along this has come without their knowledge. Mr. Cramer noted that he was not sure of who to go to and took it upon himself to gather the proposal. Mrs. Chaston again, noted that she was surprised that the proposal is addressed to the Town of Needham. Mr. Toolan asked who was committed from the town to working on this project. Mr. Toolan noted that any project like this the commission would need to allocate for monies. Mr. Cramer asked if this would be considered a Capital Improvement Project. Ms. Carey noted that it would need to be a Capital Improvement Project. Ms. Carey stated that the project would be more of a project that should be put on the Engineering Department's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Carey also noted that a project like this would have to go out to bid. Mr. Toolan noted that since the project would go out to bid it is likely that ESS may or may not be the company that wins the bid so the project could go back to ground zero. Mr. Cramer stated that they have spoken to Mr. Tony DelGaizo regarding putting the project on the list. Ms. Carey noted that she doesn't think it is on this year's list. Mrs. Chaston noted what are the next steps that the Walker Pond Watershed Association needs to take. Mr. Cramer noted that the association's primary ask is to be able to talk with Park and Recreation as the other owners of Walker Pond and we would like to be able to go back to the CPC with a plan. Ms. Carey noted that there needs to be a draft of an Open Space Plan and have a vision in place. Mr. Gerstel noted that the commission would need to refer to Mr. DelGaizo. Mrs. Chaston noted that the commission is in favor of the plan, however, the commission needs a little more time to discuss the circumstances. Mrs. Chaston noted that the commission would like to be able to take a step back and see where this project would fit into where all the other projects are. Mr. Gerstel noted that the commission would speak with Mr. DelGaizo and revisit this at the next meeting on January 6th.

- C. **School Administration Feasibility:** Ms. Carey gave an overview of the two Steve Palmer options that were presented at the School Administrative Feasibility meeting. Mrs. Chaston noted that when Ms. Carey and she attended the School Administrative Feasibility meeting they did not have a lot of information to share on the study of Greens Field. Ms. Carey

asked the commission if they would like to have Mr. Steve Popper or Henry Haff present at one of our commission meeting to discuss the options. Mr. Toolan noted that he has concerns about the parking at St. Joseph's for basketball season and losing the baseball field during the construction process. Mrs. Chaston stated she would like either Mr. Popper or Mr. Haff come to a meeting to discuss the options. Ms. Carey stated she would ask them to attend a meeting.

D. Capital/ Operating Budgets; CPC Projects: Ms. Carey quickly reviewed the lights at Claxton and DeFazio and the track. Ms. Carey noted that Mr. Edward Olsen would be handling that.

E. Select Board Goals: Ms. Carey reviewed the Selectboard Goals with the commission. Mr. Gerstel noted that the commission would like to see the docks be put into place and that we would discuss the goals further with the board at their next meeting. Mrs. Geddes asked if the commission would have the information early next year. Ms. Carey noted that the Selectboard reviews the goals every two years.

F. Office Transition: *There was no discussion of transition because of time constraints of the meeting.*

5. Action Items:

A. Pools at Rosemary Recreation Complex- 2020 Membership Fees: The commission reviewed the 2019 fees for the Pools at Rosemary Recreation Complex and discussed the increase in fees for 2020 (see attached spreadsheet). Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve the 2020 fees for the Pools at Rosemary Recreation Complex. Mrs. Chaston second the motion. The commission approved the fees.

B. Rosemary Recreation Complex- Building Use Policy: Building Use Policy: The commission reviewed the Interim Rules and Regulations for Use of Rosemary Recreation Complex and the Basic Multi-Purpose Room Schedule (see attached documents). Mr. Toolan made a motion to discuss the community group fees at the January 6th meeting. Mrs. Geddes second the motion. The commission approved the motion.

C. RRC Election Location- Mr. Gerstel noted that he would like to see the election polls take place at Rosemary Recreation Complex. Mrs. Chaston would like to approve the request with a late set up and early pick up of the space. Mrs. Chaston noted that the election polls could not take place while the pool is open. Mrs. Geddes seconded the motion. The commission approved the request.

D. Special Event Requests-

- **Relay For Life -** The commission reviewed the request from the American Cancer Society/Relay for Life of Needham, Dedham and Wellesley to host the Relay For Life Event on May 9th from 9am-4pm and clean up on May 10th from 5:00-7:00AM. Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve the request. Mrs. Geddes second the motion. The commission approved the request.

- **Memorial Day Soccer Tournament**-The commission reviewed the request from the Needham Soccer Club requesting a waiver for light usage at DeFazio Park, Multi-Purpose Field on Friday May 22nd and Saturday May 23rd from 9AM-10PM. Mr. Toolan made a request to review the fee at the next meeting.
- **Bay State Football**-The commission reviewed the request from the Bay State Instructional Football Clinic for a three-day High School Instructional Football Clinic to be held at DeFazio Park on August 17th, 18th, 19th from 9:00AM-2:00PM. Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve. Mrs. Geddes second the motion. The commission approved the request.
- **Needham Soccer Club**-The commission reviewed request from the Needham Soccer Club for the following:
 - Club Clinic and Pre-Season Strength and Conditioning Programs to be held at DeFazio Park-Brock and Founders Fields from Thursday, August 20th - Saturday, August 22nd from 8:30-11:30AM.
 - Club Clinics to be held at DeFazio Park-Brock, Founders, Conroy, Healy and Pollard from Monday, August 10th – Thursday, August 13th from 8:00AM-3:00PM.
 - Club Clinics to be held at DeFazio Park – Brock, Founders, Conroy, Healy and Pollard from 3:00PM-7:00PMMr. Toolan made a motion to approve. Mrs. Geddes second the motion. The commission approved the request.
- **Needham Boys Lacrosse**- The commission reviewed the request from the Needham Boys Lacrosse Club. Mr. Toolan made a motion to review this at the next meeting. Mr. Gerstel second the motion. The commission approved to review the request at the next meeting.

6. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours: None presented.

7. Topics for Future Agendas: None presented.

8. Adjournment of Meeting: Mr. Toolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela O'Connor, CPRP
Assistant Director