

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
July 11, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Christopher Gerstel, Cynthia Chaston, Dina Hannigan, Michelle Geddes

**STAFF:** Stacey Mulroy, Kristen Wright

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:03PM remotely via Zoom. Mr. Gerstel read a statement regarding remote public meetings.

**1. Open Forum – Public Comment**

None presented.

**2. Chair’s Update**

No update was presented.

**3. Charles River Boat Launch**

Mr. Gerstel stated he and Ms. Mulroy were still in the process of scheduling the meeting with the abutters of the boat launch project.

**4. Director’s Report**

Ms. Mulroy reviewed the Director’s Report.

The Commission discussed the new accessible water wheelchair at the Pools and Ms. Mulroy noted it would be including in the upcoming Town newsletter, ‘News you Need(ham)’. The Commission also discussed the pool attendance and capacity, the summer reporting and other reporting they would like to see.

**5A. New Commissioner Updates**

**Mr. Gerstel nominated Ms. Geddes to the Rail Trail Advisory Committee as the Park and Recreation representative. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.**

**5B. Outdoor Bathrooms & Porta-potties**

The Commission discussed the park restrooms and noted that no new complaints had been received, but Ms. Hannigan noted there was no soap in the ladies room today.

**5C. Capital Projects**

McLeod Update

The Commission discussed the proposed design and noted that the user groups had a few minor questions but overall felt it was ready for the capital projects process including applying for CPC funding. The Commission discussed that both a potential option to add a score board and to ensure that MedFlight was contacted to discuss an alternate landing site.

The timeline was discussed for this project and included a discussion with the Superintendent of Parks and Forestry and finalizing the design by the end of the summer.

#### Claxton Update

Ms. Mulroy stated that the design for Claxton was much less intensive as this project was based on site improvements. The improvements include ADA paths, shaded benches, upgraded lights, storage areas, and base upgrades.

Ms. Geddes discussed other goals of the Claxton site including the space that used to house a playground and considering the addition of the action park. Ms. Mulroy stated that the site can be built up but cannot be dug into and stated that many user groups have discussed fundraising for different amenities at the site.

Ms. Chaston asked if the project included upgrades to the restrooms. Ms. Mulroy stated that there would be ADA accessible upgrades but nothing to the building itself.

The Commission discussed the timeline that is similar to the McLeod field project.

#### **5D. CPC**

No updates presented. The next meeting is in mid-July.

#### **5E. Playgrounds & Facilities**

Ms. Mulroy and Ms. Wright stated that the contract was in process for the Greene's field project.

#### **5F. Facilities**

##### Dock at Rosemary

Ms. Mulroy stated that the contract has been executed and the install will be scheduled for September or October once the Pools were closed for the season.

##### DeFazio

The Commission discussed the parking lot and tightening up the pathway by the fuel station as well as potentially adding 'Do Not Enter' signage.

##### Pickleball

Ms. Mulroy stated that there has been some discussion of other uses of the Pollard Courts with Town Management and that she has a meeting later this week to discuss.

##### Gaga Pit

Ms. Mulroy stated that the request presented at the June 27 meeting still requires more follow-up.

#### **6A. Special Event Approvals**

None presented.

#### **6B. Meeting Minutes**

None presented.

#### **7. Topics for Future Meetings**

None presented.

**8. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours**

The Commission discussed a standard operating procedure for how to respond on Facebook to resident concerns.

Ms. Chaston asked about the planned meeting with the Select Board to discuss major projects.

Mr. Gerstel noted the fantastic job that the Needham Exchange Club did hosting the July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> festivities.

**9. Next Meetings**

The Commission reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule. The meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> was moved to August 1<sup>st</sup> due to scheduling conflicts.

**11. Adjournment of Business Meeting**

**Ms. Chaston moved to adjourn the July 11, 2022, Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:19pm. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright  
Recording Secretary