

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

**Minutes of Meeting
June 10, 2013**

- PRESENT:** Michael J. Retzky, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman
David C. DiCicco, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director
- ABSENT:** Thomas M. Jacob, Member
Andrea L. Shorthose, Member
- GUESTS:** Jean Veigas, YMCA
Connie Kaufman, YMCA
Yasue Keyes, Needham Community Center Committee
Nancy Sterling, Needham Community Center Committee
Sean McQuilliams, Mountain Biking School
Dan Shapiro, Cricket Neighbor

The meeting convened at 7:05PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building

1. **Minutes of Meeting of May 21, 2013:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013 meeting. Mr. DiCicco seconded the motion and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the following:
 - Currently 2 lifeguard openings at the pool
 - Supervisor trainings completed.
 - Trainings scheduled for this week- maintenance training, all program and pool staff training, instructor training and pool all staff training.
 - Community Garden meeting to discuss the possibility of having bee hives at the garden. It seems to be too late in the season to start this year. Will consider for next year.
 - Volunteers from Berkshire Bank/Greenpark Mortgage Company volunteered for a day of service on June 5th. Volunteers worked at Rosemary Pool and at the Needham Library. 9 volunteers participated.
 - Attended the NCYSAP meeting on June 4th. The high school volunteers are working on a great marketing campaign to share the data from the student surveys which indicates that 80% of the students at Needham HS did not drink alcohol in the last month.

4. Discussion Items:

A. Harold J. A. Street, III Trust: A check from the Harold J.A. Street III Trust for \$22,000 has been received and deposited in the Gift Fund and will be accepted by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on June 11, 2013. ~~Mr. Retzkys-Carey~~ would like to have all members present to discuss how to use the funds from this gift. Mrs. Chaston suggested trails improvements such as kiosks and signs. Mr. Retzky asked each Commissioner~~The Commissioners were instructed~~ to bring a wish list of ideas to the next meeting for discussion.

B. Rosemary Pool Study: Ms. Carey reported that Weston and Sampson is gathering information on current conditions of the facility with options for a complete rebuild, a renovation without draining the lake, a major renovation and a decommissioning of the facility. Weston and Sampson will have an ~~next~~ update next month. Ms. Carey is working with Weston and Sampson on ways to get input from the public and other boards. The Park and Recreation Commission will hold a public meeting in July to provide one of several opportunities for Needham residents to share their ideas for the pool and the complex. Not all ideas will be part of the study, but may generate discussions for next steps. ~~discuss the results of the Weston and Sampson study.~~

C. Summer Preparation: Pre season work is moving along at the pool. Parks and Forestry has done the first major clean up of the facility. The fence damaged from a car accident on Rosemary Street will be repaired once the signed contract is received from Accounting. ~~final approval is received from the insurance company.~~ Summer programs are fully staffed and staff training has begun. On June 27th and 28th activities are planned at Cricket Field to have parents and children come and meet all the program staff.

D. Downtown Streetscape Project: To be discussed at a future meeting.

E. Memorial Day Tournament Review: Ms. Carey reported the Memorial Day Tournament was able to complete 1500 games throughout the weekend despite the weather. It was a successful event.

F. Spring Fields: Spring permits end on June 16th. The YMCA requested some additional time on the fields. The Soccer Club is trying to make up some missed games prior to the weekend.

G. Greendale Avenue Projects: Ms. Carey reported there are ~~two~~ Chapter 40B projects proposed for Greendale Avenue. The public meeting for the larger of the two projects near Bird Street had a hundreds of people in attendance opposing the project. Ms. Carey wrote a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Board of Appeals Chairman on behalf of the smaller project.

H. Camp Property: Nehoiden Street Encroachment: Property located at 170 Nehoiden Street has been surveyed by the Town Engineering Department to determine the property lines. The driveway is on Town property but there is an easement to use the driveway. There is no easement for the shed or the asphalt

area next to the shed. The Town is recommending that the current owners remove

[Needham Park and Recreation Commission](#)

[Minutes of Meeting](#)

[June 10, 2013](#)

[Page 3 of 4](#)

the shed and the asphalt and restore it to a grassy area and clean up the area from the driveway to the Camp Property. There is nothing to report on Armen Way.

[Needham Park and Recreation Commission](#)

[Minutes of Meeting](#)

[June 10, 2013](#)

[Page 3 of 4](#)

I. Proposed Rail Trail – Southern Section: A copy of the feasibility study is posted on the website. Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Ms. Carey will schedule a meeting with the MBTA to negotiate adding the section between Needham Junction and High Rock Street into the lease agreement. ~~They~~She will also be talking to NSTAR. Additional information regarding the insurance will be available for the fall Town Meeting. ~~Ms. Carey noted there cannot be a lease for the northern section of the trail without a plan.~~ The Bay Colony Rail Trail volunteers are working on sharing the feasibility study information and fundraising.

J. Trail Projects: Ms. Peirce reported she is working with the Youth Commission to arrange to have Project Van volunteers participate in a trail clearing at the Rosemary Trail on July 10th. She is working with Conservation Director Patty Barry to get price quotes for 10 kiosks made out of a composite material.

K. Greene's Field Project: Ms. Carey reported that the bids have opened today. Part 1 of the bid is for fields and fencing and Part 2 of the bid is for the playground installation and surfacing. Both bids came in under budget. Work will begin after July 4th. DPW will begin some preliminary site work next week. The Exchange Club is donating a shade structure for the park.

L. Walker-Gordon Project: Ms. Carey reported that the Walker-Gordon renovation is almost completed. The grass is growing and the contractor is finishing up the parking lot. The new small playground will be installed this summer. Ms. Carey suggested a fishing dock would be a great feature at this location. DPW ~~is contracting~~has contracted with a new company to regularly bring a trained dog to help keep the Canada geese off the field.

M. NSTAR: Trees: Ms. Carey referenced an article in the Needham Times that NSTAR is still planning to remove trees near power lines in Needham. NSTAR is coordinating tree removal at DeFazio Park on the park side of the hill. Representative Denise Garlick and Senator Rush seem to have different information from NSTAR, so will continue to gather information for the Town. ~~have scheduled a meeting with NSTAR to discuss the tree removal process.~~

5. Action Items

A. Hillside/Mitchell Pre-Feasibility Study (Cricket): The School Committee voted to name the Hillside School Library in honor of recently deceased Selectman Jerry Wasserman, former Board of Selectmen member, ~~Jerry Wasserman.~~ ~~Nothing else to report at this time.~~

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Contacting abutters of possible “northern” rail trail ~~Northern section of the proposed Rail Trail abutters list.~~

Harold J. A. Street inheritance

7. Adjournment: Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiCicco and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director