

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

**Minutes of Meeting
September 12, 2016**

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

GUESTS: *YMCA Board Members:* Janet Jankowiak, Connie Kaufman
Town Meeting Member: Ross Donald

Mr. Toolan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Charles River Room of the Public Services Administration Building. Mrs. Geddes is attending the Permanent Public Building Committee meeting on the Commission's behalf and will update the Commission later in this meeting.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of August 22, 2016:** Mr. DiCicco made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 22, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel. The minutes of August 22, 2016 were approved unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** The Commission read the written report. Mr. DiCicco will represent the Commission at the Conservation Commission's site visit for the Rosemary Recreation Complex project.
3. **Program Report:** Ms. Fink reported on the successful first day of registration for Fall programs. Mr. Toolan commended the program survey sent to middle school students.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - A. **Rosemary Recreation Complex Project**
 - i. **Design:** The Commission reviewed a report from the Director, as seen in Appendix A. Ms. Carey explained that a variance must be requested for the elevator, as it did not meet the criteria for an administrative decision with MA Architectural Access Board. As all documents were not ready for the Planning Board, the hearing will be moved to November 1st, and an information meeting will be held with them on September 27th. To keep it further from the lake wall, the engineers have recommended moving the diving board to the lanes on the hill side as opposed to the center or near the lake. The engineers are also doing further research on the port-a-dam to determine if a permit is needed from Army Corps of Engineers, or if something can be done within the pool interior that is more cost effective.

Both options will be included in the upcoming estimate. The Commission reviewed the information provided in Appendix B, comparing the water temperatures over the past five years at Rosemary Pool, along with air temperatures. The Commission expressed it was not necessary to heat the pool and would consider looking into blankets instead. At this time, no additional data is available on adding solar panels on the roof. Ms. Carey noted that the building could be made solar ready with little to no extra incremental cost.

- ii. **Financing:** no update
- iii. **Programming:** Mr. Toolan has requested Ms. Fink and Recreation Supervisor Sarah Mallard work on putting together a list of programming in preparation for the public meeting. Mr. DiCicco will be a part of the discussion on indoor and outdoor options as well as age group options.
- iv. **Marketing:** Mr. Toolan would like to update the PowerPoint presentation which was used at Town Meeting so that it can be used to present information over the winter to organizations and groups prior to Town Meeting.

B. Eversource Request for Easement: Eversource held a meeting and invited all residents who live along the proposed route for the 2nd transmission line, as well as the alternate route. The Siting Board will hold a public hearing on Eversource's request on the route at Town Hall on September 27th.

C. Open Space and Recreation Plan: About 40 people expressed interest in participating on the Advisory Group and will attend the first meeting on September 28th. Mrs. Chaston, Mrs. Geddes and Ms. Carey will keep the Commission updated on discussions.

D. Greendale Avenue "Parcel 74": discussed later in the meeting

5. Action Items

- A. Special Event Request: Soccer Club:** The Commission reviewed the request from Needham Soccer Club to hold the Needham Soccer Club 300th Jamboree on October 22, 2016. Needham Soccer Club currently holds the permit and would not be taking away field space from other user groups. Mr. DiCicco made a motion to approve the Needham Soccer Club's request for DeFazio Field 1 and Field 2 on October 22, 2016 for the Needham Soccer Club 300th Jamboree. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- B. October Meeting Schedule:** Meeting scheduled for October 10, 2016 will be moved to October 17, 2016 with the location TBD. The October 24, 2016 meeting has been moved to Powers Hall.

4. Discussion Items

D. Greendale Avenue “Parcel 74”: Mrs. Geddes attended the PPBC meeting earlier in the evening for the update on the DPW Feasibility Study and provided an update on the discussion. A small portion of the recommendation would include use of “Parcel 74” on Greendale Avenue for off-season storage. Neighbors from the Greendale Avenue area attended the meeting are raised concerns for use of the property. PPBC also noted some informal discussions for use of the property for a temporary Fire Station # 2 prior to turning the use over for seasonal storage. At last May’s Town Meeting, questions were raised on what a possible plan might be for “Parcel 74” and the vote was to not allow the transfer of jurisdiction from the Commission to the Selectmen at that time. Mrs. Chaston felt that many Town Meeting members felt that by not transferring the parcel that it would remain open space. Mr. Toolan raised a concern that only neighbors were invited to the PPBC meeting and the upcoming Selectmen’s meeting on September 20, when a public hearing on the project would be held. He noted that some Town Meeting members felt it was important to give input. More information will be available after the Selectmen’s public hearing.

- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:** Mr. DiCicco would like to discuss programming and a survey to go with it to find out what the community wants. Mr. Toolan suggested discussing social media, and responses from Commission or staff.
- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. DiCicco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Fink, CPRP
Assistant Director