

Recreation Commission Minutes

Date: 2/6/2018

Room 121 Acton Town Hall 7:00 pm

Attendees: Edward Holcomb, Commissioner, Stephen Trimble, Commissioner, Joe Will, Commissioner, Barbara Willson, Commissioner, Katie Green, Selectman, and Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director.

Citizen's Concern: None.

Consent Agenda: January 9 Minutes.

Action Item: January 9 Minutes accepted as amended, 4:0.

Action Item Review from January 9, 2018 Minutes

None to report.

Topic: Fee Discussion

Cathy Fochtman reviewed the fee recommendation memo from the Recreation Commission that was accepted by the Board of Selectmen on Monday, February 5. The memo was submitted to the Town Manager as outlined from the Commission at their January 9 meeting, but was held pending discussion with the Recreation Department's consultant, Pat Savage. Pat is assessing the management of the recreation revolving account and making recommendations for improving revenue. Pat's recommendation to increase the NARA Camp fee from 8.2% to 10% was approved by the Board of Selectmen to cover the cost of supplying tee shirts to all camp participants, increases in minimum wage for Counselors and the cost of camp activities. Cathy explained that Pat is reviewing all of Recreation's programs, including Camp, Beach, Facility and Field rentals, Concerts and Events, and the July 4th celebration. Barbara Willson brought up a concern about whether the commission was responsible for policy setting or as an advisory body, wanting to be sensitive to not crossing any lines of authority. Katie replied that fee changes are appropriate for the commission to consider and fee recommendations are routinely run before the Board of Selectmen for approval. Enterprise funds were discussed as a possible future funding vehicle.

Topic: Woodlawn Field Agreement

The Field Agreement was read aloud by Cathy and signed by Commission Chair Steve Trimble.

Reports:

Rail Trails: A date will be set in the May timeframe for a ribbon cutting to officially open the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

NARA Sports Pavilion: Andy Brockway has spoken with Tom Tidman about moving forward on completing the design of the Sports Pavilion.

T.J. O'Grady Skate Park: Nothing to report.

Playgrounds: Nothing to report.

Community Preservation Committee: The Acton Historical Society withdrew their application to preserve the 62 Harris Street School House. The Recreation Department's application for funding a highway message board to post event information has been questioned as inappropriate for funding by the CPC.

Community Gardens: A concern about Bruce Freeman Rail Trail users parking at the North Acton Community Garden was noted by Ed Holcomb.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Fochtman.