



Call to Order

Ms. Karen Jarsky, Co-Chair, called meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following attendees were present: Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Karen Jarsky, Co-Chair, Ms. Kim Bodnar, Co-Chair, Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Recreation Part-Time Secretary, Citizens: Ms. Betsy Mercier.

Consent Agenda

MOTION to accept September 2010 minutes as amended, passed 2-0.

Citizens Concerns

Ms. Fochtman provided to the Commissioners a copy of a privately funded 2001 sound study performed on Quarry Road. When performers at NARA raise their speakers and point them inward, the sound is mitigated. Additionally, the Town of Acton has purchased and installed side stage curtains. Ms. Jarsky inquired about the Town performing their own study via a consultant who is able to test various locations at NARA and Quarry Road. Ms. Fochtman noted typically the performers bring their own sound equipment. After speaking with a sound specialist regarding the privately funded study, it was determined the report provided is of reasonable expectations. Typically the decibel level is 95 decibels within 200 feet. Concern regarding placing constraints on performers could inhibit the actual performances.

Action Items

Ms. Fochtman will contact a sound person for advice.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Ms. Jarsky has reviewed the current document and has some questions relating to the areas of the document which Recreation Commissioners are responsible for updating such as conservation, water based recreation and playgrounds. Ms. Fochtman informed her just the active recreation and water based recreation require updates. The intent is to keep the format of the document the same while updating the required and necessary areas.

Action Item

Ms. Jarsky will email the required and relevant sections with updates.

Preparation for BOS Oversight Meeting

Ms. Jarsky would like to address the need for updated playground equipment at the meeting. Ms. Fochtman will send the Commissioners an email listing the Goward playground replacement proposal which will be presented as a potential capital item for FY12 funding. The grass at Goward has been growing well. There is a requirement to label the playground with age recommendations. A sign was added there based on the manufacturer's recommendations. Ms. Jarsky confirmed her attendance at the BOS meeting. Ms. Fochtman reported spending nearly five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) on upgrades for Goward alone this fiscal year. An additional thirty (30) man hours working on necessary resurfacing of structures was required. Ms. Fochtman reported spending \$5,600 to purchase and install baseball netting at Jones Field. A total of \$10,600 out of Recreation funding has been spent for immediate safety upgrades at Goward and Jones Playgrounds. Currently the short term goals have been met at Goward however we are looking forward to meeting the long term goals next.

Action Item

Ms. Bodnar asked about the possibility of comparing other local towns spending on playgrounds to funding spent in Acton as well as how frequently towns replace their equipment.

Reports

Elm Street

Some of the outdated playground equipment has been removed as well as the broken benches.

Morrison Farm Update

Ms. Fochtman viewed a segment of a Board of Selectman meeting on cable television regarding their decisions on the support and recommendations for Morrison Farm. It was determined the BOS does not feel the barn is suitable to update however the home will be updated. A Blue Ribbon Committee will be established to address these tasks.

CPC

Ms. Fochtman will speak with the BOS and CPC Committee about the difficulty in locating a liaison to commit to representing Recreation on the CPC committee.

School Street

Ms. Fochtman approached the Town of Acton Manager regarding the Miracle League's inquiry of installing a ball field for this nonprofit's use at School Street. Ms. Jen Benson has offered assistance by working with State of Massachusetts representatives in obtaining open land. The multiyear lease remains a question which will need to be addressed prior to any determination occurring.

Playground Update

Ms. Fochtman provided handouts which listed projects completed and those yet to be scheduled. The most pressing projects are complete. The Life Care Center of Acton has some volunteers who are willing to help with a community project. Citizen Ms. Jana Cataldo is interested in providing input relating to the updates of the Goward Playground. The next steps would be to review with town counsel about how a fund raiser group would interact with Recreation. Ms. Fochtman will contact Selectman Pam Harting-Barrat and Ms. Cataldo to discuss this overview.

Action Item

The next steps will be to contact Town Counsel regarding how to begin a fund raising group who could interact with the Recreation Commission to meet citizens and Recreational needs. Ms. Fochtman will speak with Selectman Pam Harting-Barrat and Ms. Jana Cataldo regarding an overview. Ms. Fochtman will speak to counsel regarding the need for a subcommittee and any new open town meeting laws which must be met.

Nara Picnic Pavilion

Recreation will contact the Architect regarding the development of blue prints. Due to CPC funding constraints, this project may not be a priority on her list.

Recreation Operations – Peak Software

Recreation staff conducted a meeting with representatives of Peak Software. A lot of questions remain unanswered which we will hopefully have soon.

New Business

Acton Boxborough Youth Soccer (ABYS) would like to send out a letter to registrants informing them that pets are no longer welcome to the fields. Town Counsel has informed Ms. Fochtman enforcement of the bylaws is the only position Recreation can maintain. Posting signage at the fields listing the Town bylaws relating to dog control was an accepted motion during a prior Recreation Commission meeting.