



TOWN OF ACTON RECREATION COMMISSION

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MINUTES - OCTOBER 4, 2011

7:00 PM

ACTON TOWN HALL ROOM 126 TOWN CLERK, ACTON

ATTENDEES

Recreation Commissioners: Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair; Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner; Mr. Steve Leo, Commissioner; Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Vice-Chair; Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director; Ms. Melissa Settipani, Natural Resources Facility Worker (notetaker); Mr. Michael Kebabdjian, citizen; Mr. Frank Flowers, citizen; Mr. Gary McNabb, citizen.

AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

Citizens Concerns: Mr. David Ave, (citizen) emailed the Recreation Department with a concern about dogs being brought onto NARA beach. Ms. Fochtman explained at one time there was signage stating no dogs permitted on beach however the sign is no longer there.

Action item: Obtain a new sign that says "No dogs on the beach anytime", to be displayed year-round.

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION September 2011 minutes reviewed

ACTION ITEM September 2011 minutes were accepted as amended, 4-0

TOPIC: Goward Playground Update

Some funds have already been raised by the "Friends of the Playground". Recreation submitted a capital funding request for \$150K for use at Goward Playground. It is the top priority of the Natural Resources Capital Funding Requests for FY13.

DISCUSSION

"Friends of the Playground" have begun an outreach program to the local business communities and have been in contact with "Teamworks" regarding donating in exchange for the privilege to re-name the park with their business name. "Friends of the Playground" received a free sign for Oktoberfest from McKinnon printing.

ACTION ITEM

Ms. Fochtman is consulting with Town Management as to whether the Town of Acton will support fundraising which involves naming rights.

TOPIC: Acton 2020 Recreation Goal Discussion - 10/12/11 Meeting

DISCUSSION

The Commissioners reviewed the goals and created a list of comments to share with the Acton 2020 Committee for Thursday, October 12th. Objective 4.2: Change "walk or ride bike" to include those with limited mobility. Don't assume everyone can walk or ride a bike. Objective 4.1 Create a building that can accommodate the Senior Center and the larger community: Land around NARA could be used for expansion for something like a community or senior center. What does the community want if we had a community center? Request that Recreation Commission be included in the list of responsible organizations regarding what gets developed for this center. The Commission questioned the objective, "Ensure that playing fields are available to both youth leagues and adult leagues. Does this pertain to equitable field use". Nothing seems to address NARA broadly or as a park facility. Action steps don't say anything about parks specifically.

ACTION ITEM

Ms. Jarsky and Mr. Leo will attend the 10/12/11 meeting and share these

comments.

**TOPIC: Friends of the Lower Fields Discussion**

**DISCUSSION**

The FOLF group met and talked about moving the proposal forward. An Intermunicipal Agreement was proposed. A committee consisting of Town School and FOLF representatives is to oversee the use of the new fields. Skaters would like expansion to the adjoining skatepark. The Recreation Department has been looking into costs for a skate bowl. FOLF wants to add \$80k for the bowl into the CPA application. Natural Resources discussed safety concerns for the skate park with FOLF.

**ACTION ITEM**

FOLF has agreed to design the driveway entrance to our specifications.

**TOPIC: Catch & Release Fishing Recommendation**

**DISCUSSION**

Ms. Bettina Abe, Conservation Secretary has contacted Fish and Wildlife about NARA Pond fishing. NARA pond is not listed as a current pond in MA. Fishing without a license is breaking the law. Catch and release policy can make an overpopulated fish pond. They suggest starting a scientific study on the fish in the NARA Pond. Once they know the result, then we can make a decision about posting signage about the safety of eating the fish in NARA Pond. Investigation on pond status is the next step. Enforcing licensing and not catch and release are what Fish and Wildlife are suggesting. Suggestion from Mr. Kedadjan: Making it a catch and release facility most of the year, except for a select few weekends.

**ACTION ITEM**

Ms. Abe will contact Fish and Wildlife about setting up a study of NARA's fish population.

**REPORTS:**

**DISCUSSION**

- a) Elm Street – Ms. Fochtman and Ms. Settiani met with Mr. Rich Gottesman of AASL, (Acton Adult Softball League). Mr. Gottesman proposed that we invest in a shed to store softball equipment. AASL also wants to improve the fencing and add perma-lines.
- b) Morrison Farm - Contractor is doing some improvements to the Morrison building. Community Gardens water will be shut off soon.
- c) CPC - Ms. Mercier reported the possibility of a large land purchase under consideration.
- d) School Street- The Town Manager indicated Town Counsel has had recent correspondence with DCAM about the multi-year lease.
- e) Playgrounds – Placed mulch at Gardner under some structures. Volunteers from the junior high school are assisting Recreation
- f) Open Space and Recreation Plan – Nothing to report.
- g) NARA Picnic Pavilion – CPA funding is on hold and the Town Manager will revisit in January 2012
- h) Recreation Operations - Nothing to report

**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:** Nothing to report

**MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:** 8:45 PM

*\*Supporting and referenced documentation relating to these minutes are available on the DocuShare site; <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-1985>*