



TOWN OF ACTON
RECREATION COMMISSION

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MINUTES - DECEMBER 6, 2011

7:05 PM

ACTON TOWN HALL
ROOM 126
TOWN CLERK, ACTON

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Mr. Stephen Leo, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director; Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary; Ms. Melissa Settupani, Natural Resources, Mr. Joe Will, Acton resident and member of Acton Boxborough Youth Soccer Board. Absent: Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Vice-Chair.
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AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

Citizens Concerns: None to report

TOPIC: CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	November 2011 minutes
ACTION ITEM	November 2011 minutes will be reviewed during January 2012; they were not available for review.

TOPIC: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN 2012 - 2017

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman discussed the OSRP Goals and Objectives provided to the Commissioners. Changes are reflected in bullet #3 – Expand Recreational Opportunities Statement. Specifically, Pocket Parks (small parks which can be squeezed into common areas) were moved out of the Conservation section and into the Recreation section. Ms. Fochtman said the Commissioners will need to discuss the proposed current state of this document and provide suggestions and possible changes which are not included. Ms. Jarsky suggested a modification, “provide athletic fields to meet current demands”. Ms. Mercier noted, “accessible playgrounds for all children and an additional playground for children ages 2-5”. Ms. Mercier stated it is important for all age groups to be included somewhere in the plan.
ACTION ITEM	Ms. Fochtman will share these comments with the Conservation Commission about the draft OSRP Goals and Objectives.

TOPIC: WISH LIST FOR OSRP RECREATION 5 YEAR PLAN

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman discussed obtaining the commission’s wish list relating to the 5 year plan outlining actions to achieve. What is needed is an organized breakdown per Recreation location. Commissioners might want to identify new land purchases. Ms. Jarsky noted pea stone is nice however it should not be installed at the expense of accessibility. Mr. Leo said more trash receptacles are needed. Mr. Will brought up the issue of dog owners not cleaning up after their own dogs at Great Hill. A trash can being placed at the pond would be beneficial. However accessibility by the crew to that location is not an option. Ms. Fochtman agreed to bring the issue of trash being left by the sports teams at the next league meeting as well.
ACTION ITEM	Commissioners will email their 5 year plan wish list to Ms. Fochtman.
NEW BUSINESS	The Recreation Commission discussed possible locations where a bike rack would be beneficial as NARA Park and the Acton Public Library currently have bike racks. A possible location could be the Robbins Mill playground. Ms. Jarsky noted the bike rack is something Recreation would support yet does not

fall under the Recreation Commission's responsibility. The bike rack located at Gardner Playground will be moved closer to the parking area if it is not cemented within its current location.

Action Item: Ms. Jarsky will write a response to TAC suggesting a bike rack be installed at Robbins Mill.

REPORTS:

DISCUSSION

- a) Elm Street Update – AASL has funded a new storage shed for softball. Long term, the playground needs to be developed.**
- b) Morrison Farm Update – nothing reported**
- c) CPC – nothing reported**
- d) School Street – nothing reported**
- e) Playground Update – Mr. Leo reported that he had exchanged emails with BOS Selectmen liaison John Sonner regarding the FOP fundraising effort for Goward Playground. Mr. Sonner indicated that the BOS would look favorably upon small donations from many citizens.**
- f) Open Space & Recreation Plan – nothing reported**
- g) NARA Park Pavilion Update – nothing reported**
- h) Recreation Operations Peak Software – nothing reported**

**MEETING ADJOURNED
TIME:**

8:15 PM

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