



TOWN OF ACTON
RECREATION COMMISSION

RECEIVED
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MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

6:45 PM

ACTON TOWN HALL
ROOM 121
TOWN CLERK, ACTON

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair; Ms. Betsy Mercier, Vice Chair; Mr. Steve Leo, Commissioner (via conference call), Mr. Joseph Will, Commissioner; Mr. John Sonner, Board of Selectmen Liaison; Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Natural Resources; Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Recreation Secretary
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AGENDA TOPICS

TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	<p><u>Geese</u> This year the geese have taken to nesting near the patio. Recreation has attempted a few different remedies to deter them. The use of a motion sprinkler was attempted.</p> <p><u>Beach Closures</u> The first beach closure was due to an extended period of high heat. The second closure was after a weekend rain storm.</p>
ACTION ITEM	<p><u>Geese</u> Recreation may investigate hiring dogs to deter the geese for next season.</p> <p><u>Beach Closures</u> The Board of Health has recommended an aeration system to be installed at the NARA Pond. Inline diffusers create an increase in circulation within the water. This will require electricity to be placed down to the beach.</p>

TOPIC: CONSENT OF MINUTES & WELCOME OF NEW COMMISSIONER

DISCUSSION	A motion to accept the July 2012 minutes as amended, 4:0. The Commissioners welcome Mr. Joe Will as a new member to the Recreation Commission.
ACTION ITEM	The minutes will be updated after amended and placed within the Town of Acton website.

TOPIC: GOWARD PLAYGROUND (ACTION ITEM REVIEW)

DISCUSSION	Commissioner Leo will contact Mr. LaRue to discuss the elevation requirement for the playground entrance. Selectman Sonner inquired as to available drafts of the playground design for review. Ms. Fochtman has drafts however there are issues with the placement of equipment which need to be revisited. Commissioner Mercier noted at the upcoming meeting, the age of the septic will also be discussed along with the concern if the equipment will outlast the septic system. A concern regarding the expansion area is that footings can not be placed within particular boundaries. The <i>Friends of the Playground</i> fundraising event "FunRun" was a success. The goal may be reset to 50K. Commissioner Leo inquired about applying for a grant as well. The installation of the equipment may need to go to bid. Mr. Redmond (contractor) will provide an estimate as to the cost of transporting and installing playground equipment being donated by The Acton Children's School playground. There is a possibility of placing the donated equipment at the Elm Street playground location. The playground
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*Supporting and referenced documentation relating to these minutes are available on the DocuShare site; <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-1985>

	<p>equipment being donated is for ages ranging from two through five (2 – 5) years of age. Resurfacing is an additional expense. Commissioner Mercier noted CPC funds may be available. Monies are awarded before the upcoming new fiscal year. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of setting up donations via on-line registrations for the Goward Playground.</p> <p><u>Action Item:</u> Ms. Fochtman will speak to the Town Accountant and will contact the Historic District regarding the proposed redesign of the items donated for the Goward Playground.</p>
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TOPIC: MIRACLE LEAGUE

DISCUSSION	<p>Official opening this weekend. Lots of vendors have donated time and materials to make this possible. The Board of Selectman has passed an agreement for the lease arrangement. Dedication as the Joseph Lalli Field.</p>
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TOPIC: BALL FIELD ADVERTISING SIGN POLICIES

DISCUSSION	<p>Acton Boxborough Youth Baseball (ABYB) sponsor signs are placed along the outfield of the Town of Acton ball fields. The Board of Selectman approved the revenue costs of \$500 per sign. The BOS approved this agreement for three (3) years. The time has come again to address this issue. This policy will be in effect as well for the Miracle League Field.</p> <p><u>Action Item:</u> Ms. Fochtman will address a memo to both organizations and send along a recommendation for approval by the BOS.</p>
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TOPIC: TJ O'GRADY SKATEPARK

DISCUSSION	<p>Due to construction of the Lower Fields, the skate park has been closed for the summer. Recreation staff has contacted various vendors who specialize in skate park development. One such company is based out of Connecticut. A meeting was held with the skaters themselves; while the younger skaters liked the conceptual design of the bowl, the older skaters felt it was too simple.</p> <p><u>Action Item:</u> Recreation staff will obtain a quote for new items and a bid document will need to be developed. CPC funds are available for the bowl construction. Ms. Fochtman met with Mr. J.D. Head about how the Lower Field project is progressing. The parking lot and snack bar / driveway will be developed next. The skate park remains closed.</p>
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Reports:

- a) *Miracle Field* – Noted above
- b) *NARA Parking Expansion* - Almost complete. This will hopefully be a skating location come the winter.
- c) *CPC* - Public hearing on Tuesday to kick off the season. Mr. Bartl was going to contact Ms. Fochtman regarding the skate park update.
- d) *School Street* – Nothing new to report
- e) *Playgrounds* – Noted above
- f) *Open Space & Recreation Plan* – Nothing new to report
- g) *Picnic Pavilion* – Ms. Fochtman met with Town Counsel in July. Discussion about moving forward on accepting bids. Spoke about the concern of costs estimate. Ms. Fochtman requires confirmation if the previous amount submitted remains accurate. If there is a difference in cost, Recreation may

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go back to CPC for funding. Recreation is paying for Kang Associates to provide an updated estimate.

- h) *Operations* – NARA is closed for the season. Recently there was a break-in and a safe was stolen. Acton Police were notified and detectives observed the area.
- i) *New Business/Discussion* – Nothing to report

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40pm