



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

MINUTES
DATE: JANUARY 6, 2015

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Chair, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator, Ms. Katie Green, Selectman, Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Citizen, Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Citizen, Mr. Josh Fischel, Citizen
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AGENDA TOPICS - Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	None to report.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	December 17, 2014 minutes
ACTION ITEM	December 17, 2014 minutes accepted as amended, 3-0

TOPIC: Action Item Review: None.

TOPIC: DISCUSS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

DISCUSSION	<p>On Thursday January 15th, Ms. Fochtman will be presenting three recreation projects to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). These three projects include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Phase #2 of the Skate Park Project – This is a plaza and park-like addition to the current skate park located on Hayward Road. The skate park was constructed ten years ago to honor a late Boxborough skater by the name of TJ O’Grady. Boxborough’s original plan was to help with the construction by giving \$40,000 toward the original plans, but was unfortunately voted down at their Town Meeting. Ms. Mitzi Weil, a Boxborough Recreation Commissioner, had presented the idea to the Boxborough Town Administrator on trying to help fund \$40,000 toward the second phase of the expansion project. 2) Security Gate on the Inner Road at NARA Park – During the summer months, NARA Park has been having issues with vehicles driving on the inner road, which is really just for pedestrians to walk or for authorized vehicles only. There are signs up stating not to drive on this path; however the Recreation Department and summer staff feel that it isn’t enough to stop the public from driving through. It’s a hazard to have cars drive through this pedestrian walkway and the Recreation Department believes that a security gate will help with the safety of people walking the 1-mile path around NARA Park. 3) Modular Bathrooms by the New Picnic Pavilion – Currently, the only non-portable bathrooms at NARA Park are located at the Bathhouse. After one season of having the New Picnic Pavilion open for rentals, the Recreation Staff has found that it is very inconvenient for the guests at functions to walk down to the bathroom, especially at night when there are limited light sources. Placing bathrooms close to the pavilion will definitely be more convenient and possibly appeal more to future renters. These bathrooms will only be open for functions and special events at NARA Park.
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TOPIC: COMMISSION OVERVIEW FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

DISCUSSION	The current commissioners explained their role to the potential commissioners. Ms. McKeever-Matz spoke about how she knows more about what is going on with the Town and recreation projects within the community. It also gives the commissioners opportunities to join sub-committees around town and be the voice of the public on projects and decisions. On occasion, the Recreation Department asks the commissioners to volunteer at community events, like the annual Winter Carnival. The potential candidates (Ms. Gerhardt, Ms. Gerolamo, and Mr. Fischel) also spoke to Ms. Green about the application process of becoming a Recreation Commissioner.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) NARA Picnic Pavilion – An Eagle Scout has been working at putting layers of materials down to create a rain garden at the entrance of the Picnic Pavilion. b) NARA Comfort Station – Nothing new to report. c) Morrison Farm – Nothing new to report. d) TJ O’Grady – Nothing new to report. e) Playgrounds – Forte Landscaping has started to install the preschool playground at Elm Street. f) Community Preservation Committee – See above.
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

The Recreation Department has put out an advertisement for the Recreation Secretary position and at this time has received a number of responses from prospective candidates.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM
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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>*