



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

MINUTES
DATE: MARCH 4, 2015

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Chair, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner (via conference call), Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator, Ms. Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Secretary.
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AGENDA TOPICS - Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

Introduced Mary Lou Repucci as the new Recreation Secretary.

TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	An Acton resident had called Senator Eldridge's office to place a complaint about the trail at NARA Park not being plowed. Ms. Fochtman received a call from the Senator's office and she explained that the Natural Resources crew are part of a union and are required to help the Highway Department during snow storms. Parks and conservation areas are low priority for plowing, however the issue has been resolved and NARA Park's walking trail is now plowed.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	February 10, 2015 minutes
ACTION ITEM	February 10, 2015 minutes accepted as amended, 5-0

TOPIC: Action Item Review: None.

TOPIC: JONES PLAYGROUND – COMMUNITY SURVEY OUTREACH

DISCUSSION	The Recreation Department asked the Commissioners if they'd like to help spread the word to the community about trying to renovate Jones Playground. Ms. Fochtman suggested they help by compiling a survey that can be given to different organizations around town. Both Ms. Mercier and Mr. Will volunteered to help with the survey. Ms. McKeever-Matz volunteered to help distribute the survey through the Acton-Boxborough schools.
ACTION ITEM	Ms. Rier will send the dated survey to the Commissioners for their edits and everyone will reconvene at the next Recreation Commission meeting to discuss subsequent steps of this outreach project.

TOPIC: NARA RULES AND REGULATIONS, VISITOR & VEHICLE OVERSITE

DISCUSSION	The Recreation Staff asked the Commissioners to brainstorm ideas on how to keep vehicles off the inner road at NARA Park. Ms. Fochtman believes the department needs more seasonal staff to be able to monitor the park. The two positions Ms. Fochtman came up with are a part-time Park Ranger and a Function Coordinator. The Park Ranger could manage NARA Park as well as other conservation areas like the Acton Arboretum, and other parks like the TJ O'Grady Skate Park. The Park Ranger would also make sure vehicles were not driving on the inner road. The other position Ms. Fochtman thought of would be the Function Coordinator. Last summer, the Recreation staff discovered that people were setting up picnics around the park and disturbing the overall setting and environment of NARA Park. The Recreation Department decided to set up specific rental grilling areas to help solve these issues, which was overseen by the previous Recreation Secretary. The Function Coordinator's position would be to make sure people are renting grilling areas and that rental pavilions and tents are ready for the people who rented those specific areas each day. The Commissioners suggested that the two roles could potentially be combined into one position.
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TOPIC: LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

DISCUSSION	The Acton 2020 Committee is looking for liaisons from all Town committees and boards. Ms. Gerhardt volunteered to be the liaison from the Recreation Commission. The Recreation Department will now add Acton 2020 to our future Recreation Commission Meeting reports.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) NARA Picnic Pavilion – Nothing new to report. b) NARA Comfort Station – Ms. Fochtman has been in touch with Mr. Andy Richardt and will be meeting with him in two weeks to talk about the future comfort station. c) Morrison Farm – Nothing new to report. d) TJ O'Grady – A Boxborough Recreation Commissioner went to Boxborough's Board of Selectman Meeting requesting an article be added to Town Meeting Warrant to contribute \$40,00.00 to the expansion of the skate park. A journalist from the Beacon didn't understand why Boxborough would help Acton with its skate park. Ms. Fochtman explained the history of the TJ O'Grady Skate Park to The Beacon; The Beacon decided to write an article about the skate park to create awareness of the project and the history behind it.
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">e) Playgrounds – The Acton-Boxborough Regional High School will be doing its annual Volunteer Day in the spring and the Acton Recreation Department placed requests to have volunteers help spread playground mulch at various playgrounds around town.f) Community Preservation Committee – The Community Preservation Committee had voted and decided not to fund any of the three Recreation projects this year. Mr. Will reported that there was \$45,000 unused money after the final decisions on what projects to fund. |
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

Nothing new to report

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 8:15 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>*