



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

MINUTES
DATE: APRIL 14, 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, Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator, Ms. Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Secretary, Ms. Katie Green, Selectman, Ms. Naomi Phaneuf, 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	March 4, 2015 minutes
ACTION ITEM	March 4, 2015 minutes accepted as amended, 5-0

TOPIC: Action Item Review: None.

TOPIC: JONES PLAYGROUND DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	A draft of the Jones Field Playground Survey was circulated for review. Various means of survey distribution were considered including fliers, the "Action Unlimited," posting to community boards, Survey Monkey, Acton Family Network (AFN) and a possible online incentive. The appeal of the various playgrounds to differing age groups and needs was discussed. Potential improvements to Jones and related costs were considered, including sand and water. Ms. Rier noted that donated bricks and the bench will remain although they might be moved. She suggested locating equipment appropriate to younger children nearer to the parking lot, opposite the present design. Ms. Phaneuf voiced the desire for sanitary facilities, running water and trash removal. Other South Acton alternative playground areas were discussed, including Great Hill, because Jones Field flooding is a concern. Little Great Hill is too remote from the parking area for small children. Mr. Will suggested the end of the Assabet River Rail Trail as a viable playground location. Ms. Fochtman described plans to improve the Ice House Pond and potential to have an East Acton playground there.
ACTION ITEM	Ms. McKeever-Matz will contact the Superintendent of Acton-Boxboro Schools regarding distribution through the school system. Ms. Rier will create a Facebook page.

TOPIC: NARA MASTER PLAN

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman described A Ten-Year NARA Master Plan currently in development as the result of CPA feedback. NARA users will be surveyed. The Plan will contain more detail than the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Participation of the Recreation Commission in this process is requested.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) NARA Picnic Pavilion – A post-construction list of things to be done is being completed. A large grill is scheduled to be added. Landscaping is under way including the Rain Garden. b) NARA Comfort Station – Ms. Fochtman and Mr. Tidman met with Mr. Andy Richardt about planning the future comfort station. The Miracle League would like an office, concession area and storage. c) Morrison Farm – Plots are ready to open. The Douglas School will have a plot. d) T.J. O'Grady – The Park has been observed to be very busy. An article in "The Beacon" reported on its popularity. A Framingham activist published a document extolling the benefits of community skate board parks that could assist the Town of Boxborough in its quest to gain citizen support to fund the T.J. O'Grady Skatepark. e) Playgrounds – Acton-Boxborough Regional High School seniors will add new mulch to the Goward Playground during the annual spring Volunteer Day. f) Community Preservation Committee – Nothing to report. g) Acton 2020 – Nothing to report.
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

Ms. Green queried whether a fee structure exists for renting the entire NARA Park.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

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