



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

Minutes

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

DATE: May 3, 2016

ATTENDEES	Present were Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Mr. Tom Heinlein, Commissioner, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator and Ms. Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Secretary.
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TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Ms. Gerhardt reported a conversation with a citizen regarding cleanliness of the NARA Bathhouse restrooms. Ms. Fochtman said this issue also came up in the NARA Master Plan Survey. The restrooms are now being cleaned by NARA lifeguards twice a day whereas previously it was once a day.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	May 3, 2016 minutes
ACTION ITEM	May 3, 2016 minutes accepted, 4-0.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM MARCH 1, 2016

DISCUSSION	None.
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TOPIC: RECREATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported circulating a memo nominating Lauren Richardt as Myra Kraft Volunteer of the Year for her extraordinary work through the Miracle League on behalf of disabled children. Ms. Fochtman proposed Ms. Richardt be nominated Recreation Department 2015 Volunteer of the Year to be honored with a plaque and public recognition at the Acton Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, July 2. The Commissioners voted 4-0 nominating Lauren Richardt as Recreation Department 2015 Volunteer of the Year.
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TOPIC: CAMP ACTON RATES

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman recommended the Camp Acton rate be raised from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per site per night. There has not been a rate increase for many years and it is needed to offset the cost of the porta-potty added to the Camp. The Commissioners voted 4-0 approving the Camp Acton rate increase to \$25.00.
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TOPIC: NARA MASTER PLAN

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman displayed the current draft of the NARA Master Plan via projector for review. Next meeting, the Commission will review the Goals, Objectives and Action items in greater detail.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION

- a) Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Infrastructure is progressing with work noted on the overpass at Great Road near Davis Road, close to the intersection of Routes 2A and 27.
- b) NARA Sports Pavilion – Ms. Fochtman reported that selecting an architect to develop final engineered plans is under consideration. She will meet with the Town Manager regarding a quote from the Office of Michael Rosenfeld and input from other local architects. Alternative architectural resources were considered.
- c) Morrison Farm – Mr. Will announced a celebration of the Acton Conservation Trust 20th anniversary at Morrison Farm on May 7, 10:30am.
- d) T.J. O’Grady Skate Park – Voters at the upcoming Boxborough Town Meeting will decide whether to approve \$40,000 in Community Preservation Act funding for the Skate Bowl expansion project. The Town of Boxborough Finance Committee did not recommend supporting the article. Public perception of skate parks was discussed along with possible alternative funding sources.
- e) Playgrounds – Two new shade structures are being installed, one at the NARA playground and one at NARA Beach. The annual playground safety review is complete. Safety surfacing beneath playground structures was discussed. Moving the beach volleyball courts from NARA Park to Jones Field is under consideration. Ms. McKeever-Matz shared an image of a sign from a Northborough park regarding dog control.
- f) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) – Ms. Fochtman reported CPC award letters going out soon from the Planning Department for the T.J. O’Grady Skate Park Bowl (\$135,000) and NARA Sports Pavilion (\$350,000). Ms. McKeever-Matz reported imminent dissolution of the CPC Study Committee. The recommended 3% surcharge to fund CPC projects was not brought to Town Meeting this year due to timing, complexity of the issue and need for greater public awareness. It may be presented for a ballot vote at fall Town Meeting with follow-up next spring.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: Dissatisfaction with conditions at the School Street Fields has been expressed by representatives of the Acton-Boxborough Youth Soccer League. Safety concerns focus on uneven surfaces. Possible causes and solutions were discussed including the impact of Town Fair and Boy Scout Jamboree. Ms. Fochtman, Ms. Rier and Mr. Tom Tidman will review the fields to assess conditions.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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