



Town of Acton
Recreation Commission

Minutes

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

DATE: June 7, 2016

ATTENDEES	Present were Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner, 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 Park Bathhouse restrooms. Ms. Fochtman said the issue also came up in responses to the NARA Master Plan Survey. The restrooms are now being cleaned twice daily by NARA lifeguards; previously they were cleaned once daily. There was also discussion of a citizen concern over the NARA Park trail impeded by construction of the new Sports Pavilion. Mr. Tom Tidman, Natural Resources Director, responded by having fencing around the site moved back, clearing the trail to ensure public access and safety.
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CONSENT AGENDA

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

ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM MAY 3, 2016

DISCUSSION	Camp Acton Rate: The Recreation Department is awaiting Board of Selectman approval of the proposed increase from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per site per night. Lauren Richardt was awarded 2015 Myra Kraft Volunteer of the Year. There is a goal to raise \$100,000 for the Miracle League by the end of 2016. Mr. Heinlein inquired about the publicity campaign; Ms. Gerhardt shared a marketing letter she had received.
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TOPIC: RECREATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

DISCUSSION	The Commissioners voted unanimously to elect Mr. Tom Heinlein as Recreation Commission chair.
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TOPIC: NITRO/GAS HOBBY PLANE REQUEST

DISCUSSION	Ms. Rier read an email from a citizen requesting permission to fly nitro/gas-powered model aircraft at the School Street Fields. The writer was invited to, but did not attend, the June 7 Recreation Commission meeting. Charles River Radio Controllers, who have received a permit to fly model aircraft at School Street, do not allow this type of propulsion. Problems with a "rogue" nitro flyer at the School Street field were discussed along with the dangers of hazardous fuel generally. Ms. Fochtman listed six fields in other towns near Acton specifically designed to accommodate the particular needs of this type of model aircraft. Ms. Gerhardt explained that nitro planes require a runway, which might not be feasible at School Street. The School Street fields are in heavy use for many purposes, and are close to Route 2, which might render the permitting of nitro/gas model aircraft untenable. Ms. Gerolamo added that the uneven surface of the field would increase safety concerns. Ms. Fochtman said that a policy is needed to regulate nitro/gas model aircraft and that Acton Police should be consulted. The Town of Acton prohibition against drones was discussed in conjunction with this topic.
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TOPIC: NARA MASTER PLAN

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman distributed copies of the <u>NARA Master Plan</u> Goals and Objectives, and Action Plan, for Commissioner input, requesting their changes for the final editing phase prior to presentation to the Board of Selectmen.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Nothing to report.b) NARA Sports Pavilion – Ms. Fochtman reported that the design plan by the Office of Michael Rosenfeld will be finalized shortly. One foundation has been poured.c) Morrison Farm – Mr. Will expressed the need for parking control. Work is progressing on the Hebert Community Gardens in South Acton to be available to the public next year.d) T.J. O’Grady Skate Park – Voters at the Boxborough Town Meeting rejected a \$40,000 request for Community Preservation Act funding of the Skate Bowl expansion project. Ms. Fochtman is in the process of seeking alternative funding. Public perception of skate parks was discussed; Ms. Rier met with Acton Police who reported no drug-related complaints or arrests at the skate park/parking lot in the past seven years.e) Playgrounds – Two new shade structures have been installed at NARA Park. Ms. Rier posted signage at NARA Park and at Elm Street prohibiting dogs in the playgrounds. Ms. Fochtman reported replacement of fencing at Veteran’s Field. A funding request to replace the retaining wall has been made. Discussion is under way about expanding the parking lot. Ms. Fochtman has approached the Acton-Boxborough Youth Baseball League to partner with the Recreation Department in this project. Ms. Rier reported progress being made in cooperation with the Town of Acton Land Use Departments to re-design Jones Field.f) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) – Ms. Fochtman reported CPC award letters received for the T.J. O’Grady Skate Park Bowl (\$135,000) and NARA Sports Pavilion (\$350,000).
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: Many thanks to Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz for her dedicated service to the Acton Recreation Commission. Her many years of service are much appreciated!

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 8:45 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>*