



Town of Acton
Recreation Commission

Minutes

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

DATE: July 12, 2016

ATTENDEES	Present were Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner, Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Mr. Tom Heinlein, Chair, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator, Ms. Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Secretary and Mr. John Eppling of Charles River Radio Controllers, Sudbury MA.
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TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	A NARA neighbor, Mr. Vijay Adusumilli, telephoned Ms. Fochtman expressing concern over NARA Park conditions observed on a Sunday afternoon, including overcrowding, trash, alcohol, profane language and failure by many to obey Park rules. The caller felt that out-of-town visitors not required to pay to enter NARA create negativity throughout the Park. The availability of grills contributes to overcrowding beyond control of the seasonal staff. Ms. Gerhardt suggested a grill rental deposit, but a strategy requiring users to register had already been tried, and most could not produce identification. Ms. Gerolamo had heard of an altercation with a bottle thrown. Mr. Heinlein asked about signage; Ms. Rier replied that extensive signage is in place with more added. At the time of the citizen call Ms. Fochtman had already met with NARA seasonal staff and Acton Police Lieutenant, Jim Cogan, to develop a strategy addressing these and related problems. Lieutenant Cogan recommended a four-hour police detail between 4pm – 8pm, at day's end, although it could not be guaranteed. Ms. Fochtman since has asked the Town Manager for authorization to disable the grills except as part of facility rentals supervised by the Park Ranger. Police have encouraged NARA staff to call immediately when alcohol is present. Ms. Fochtman also reported a new parking security attendant added this year and gates to be installed on both parking lot entrances to the interior road. She will follow up with Mr. Adusumilli regarding steps taken to maintain a positive atmosphere in the Park.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	June 7, 2016 minutes
ACTION ITEM	June 7, 2016 minutes accepted as amended, 4-0.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM JUNE 7, 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.
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TOPIC: MODEL AIRPLANE POLICY

DISCUSSION	Mr. John Eppling, of the Charles River Radio Controllers, was invited to attend the Recreation Commission meeting to provide input on a policy for nitro/gas model aircraft on fields managed by the Recreation Department. Ms. Fochtman also has consulted with Town Counsel, Nina Pickering-Cook, regarding what level of approval is required to post rules. Action plan is to develop rules, obtain Board of Selectman approval and then post. A fee associated with enforcement requires the topic to be brought to Town Meeting for approval of a bylaw. Mr. Eppling will provide a set of sample rules used by the Academy of Model Aeronautics which he suggested summarizing for signage. He also offered to measure the sound limits in field conditions and modify the proposed rules to specify a decibel limit. Safety concerns and noise were also discussed.
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TOPIC: MORRISON FARM PARKING CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Mr. Will shared photographs of cars at Morrison Farm parked beyond the boundaries of the asphalt lot. He said that random parking has become a recurring problem causing damage to the farmhouse lawn and ruts in the grassy pathway, and suggested placement of boulders to give some order to farmhouse parking and block vehicular access past the Community Gardens parking.
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TOPIC: NARA MASTER PLAN

DISCUSSION	The Commissioners discussed possible reorganization of the <u>NARA Master Plan</u> Goals and Objectives and Action Plan along with other changes.
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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 restroom has been put on its foundation. The foundation for the second building will be poured and that unit placed soon. The design contract with the Office of Michael Rosenfeld is expected to be finalized shortly.c) Morrison Farm – Selectman Peter Berry has requested feedback from Town boards and committees as to the preferred disposition of the Morrison Farm house. Ms. Fochtman said the Recreation Department would like to see a functional building on the site for program use. Mr. Will pointed out that the Commission has already voted that the Town not sell any parcel containing the farmhouse to any private interest.d) T.J. O’Grady Skate Park – Construction of the new skate park bowl has commenced. The Skate Park will remain open with the construction area fenced off. Information will be posted explaining the project. Fundraising possibilities were discussed.e) Playgrounds – Ms. Gerhardt shared information about pickleball; the possibility of a court was discussed. Ms. Fochtman reported repair of the spider climber at Goward playground. Replacement equipment has been ordered for the NARA playground.f) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) – Nothing to report.
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: NARA BEACH/PICNIC PARK MANAGEMENT: (See Citizen Concerns above.)

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 8:55 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>*