



Town of Acton
Recreation Commission

Minutes

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

DATE: September 6, 2016

ATTENDEES	Present were Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Mr. Tom Heinlein, Commission Chair, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator, Ms. Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Secretary, Ms. Betsy Kristl and Ms. Claire Siska.
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TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Mr. Barry Rosen expressed concern about the impact on Community Gardens of the Acton Water District prohibition against all outdoor watering. Ms. Fochtman spoke with Mr. Matt Mostoller, Water District Environmental Manager, to clarify the new restrictions. It was concluded that although hose watering is banned, the use of hand-held containers will be allowed. Ms. Fochtman also met with Mr. Charlie Aaronson to review the Morison Farm Community Gardens hose system. A series of conferences took place among Ms. Fochtman, Mr. Rosen and Mr. Mostoller regarding legality of the Water District policy with respect to farms. Also discussed was the extraordinary cost of the Community Garden water bills paid by the Recreation Department.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	July 12, 2016 minutes
ACTION ITEM	June 12, 2016 minutes accepted as amended, 3-0.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM JULY 12, 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: GREAT HILL DOG PARK PROPOSAL

DISCUSSION	Acton resident Ms. Betsy Kristl presented a comprehensive plan for a dog park to be located at the Great Hill Conservation area in South Acton, a regional destination already in heavy use for this purpose. She emphasized the need for a place where Acton's 1,800 licensed dogs can exercise and receive socialization as well as the health benefits of dog ownership to humans. Her proposal included specialized gates, extensive fencing, access to water, benches and further amenities. A separate small dog enclosure was also suggested. Acton resident Ms. Claire Siska contributed her perspective in support. Possible conflict with the existing soccer fields, also in heavy use, was brought up along with other considerations. Mr. Will shared a list of points to be resolved as part of the process necessary to accomplish the proposal. The Commissioners recommended a citizen's coalition be formed for public support and fundraising, and that the proposal be presented to various other relevant Town boards and committees. Ms. Fochtman will seek advice from Town Counsel as to viability.
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TOPIC: FEE ADJUSTMENT – NARA SUMMER CAMP MIGHTY MINI

DISCUSSION	The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a fee reduction encouraging full-day enrollment in the Mighty Mini Camp serving children ages 4-5. The half-day rate will remain constant.
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TOPIC: MODEL AIRPLANE POLICY

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman circulated copies of a document drafted by Town counsel, "Rules and Regulations for Small Unmanned Aircraft on Town Property," for Commissioner review. Discussion was deferred to a future meeting.
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TOPIC: NARA MASTER PLAN

DISCUSSION	Mr. Will suggested reorganization of the NARA Master Plan making the information more accessible to the Community Preservation Committee.
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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 foundation preparation complete. Ms. Fochtman and Mr. Tom Tidman met with the Office of Michael Rosenfeld to obtain stamped architectural plans. Miracle League fundraising has surpassed 50% of its goal.c) Morrison Farm – The Commissioners voted unanimously to make the following recommendation to Selectman Chair, Peter Berry, who requested feedback from Town boards and committees as to disposition of the farm house: "The Commissioners recommend that the Morrison Farm house be torn down, with the stipulation that it be replaced with a structure, or area, dedicated to general recreational programs. including horticultural and agricultural uses, subject to Recreation Commission approval."d) T.J. O'Grady Skate Park – Construction of the new skate park bowl is in progress with shotcrete to be applied soon. The Skate Park remains open with the construction area fenced off. Phase II fundraising is under way with a Crowd Fundraiser effort matched by MassDevelopment. Ms. Fochtman sent the fundraising materials to the Town of Boxborough for its participation.e) Playgrounds – Playground inspections are forthcoming.f) Community Preservation Committee ("CPC") – A public hearing is scheduled for September 22, 2016.
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: NONE.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 9:30 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>*