



Town of Acton
Recreation Commission

Minutes

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

DATE: November 1, 2016

ATTENDEES	Present were Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner, Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Mr. Tom Heinlein, Commission Chair, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Claire Siska, Citizen, Ms. Karen Sonner, Citizen and Ms. Jennifer Chen, Citizen.
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TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Ms. Siska, Ms. Sonner and Ms. Chen were seeking information about the direction the Town was taking in considering the creation of an Acton dog park. They attended a public meeting organized by Ms. Betsy Kristl to unite a group of interested citizens, but said that the group did not coalesce and that they had not been informed by Ms. Kristl about what steps had taken place to date with the Town. This prompted Ms. Siska to write to the Board of Selectmen requesting a public discussion about the creation of a dog park, which has been scheduled for Monday, December 5. Ms. Fochtman explained that ideas discussed between Town staff and Ms. Kristl have been exploratory and Town staff had been anticipating that through Ms. Kristl's canvassing of the community, an interest group would form to work with Town staff on defining the project. Ms. Fochtman reviewed steps taken to date: Town staff meeting with Town Counsel to discuss liability ramifications of the Town creating an official dog park in Acton, identifying potential funding sources for the design and construction via the Stanton Foundation and Community Preservation Act, and creating a list of potential Town properties to rate their suitability. If the Board of Selectmen creates a Dog Park Committee after the December 5 meeting, Town staff will work with the Committee using this research.
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CONSENT AGENDA

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

ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM OCTOBER 4, 2016

DISCUSSION	No action items were noted.
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TOPIC: FEE INCREASE – NARA BOATING

DISCUSSION	The Commissioners discussed a proposal to raise the boating fee at NARA Pond from \$5.00 for 30 minutes to \$10.00 for 30 minutes. After a brief discussion, a motion was approved, 4-0.
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TOPIC: MODEL AIRPLANE POLICY

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reviewed her correspondence sent to Town Counsel suggesting modifications to the draft "Rules for Drone and Model Airplane Use at School Street Field," based on the Commission's discussion in October with Mr. John Epling, President of the Charles River Model Aircraft user group. Ms. Fochtman is awaiting Town Counsel's response.
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TOPIC: NARA MASTER PLAN

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported that the document will be ready for final edits and invited the Commissioners to volunteer to review it. Ms. Gerolamo offered to receive a copy for review.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – The bridge that will span Great Rd. is nearing completion this month.b) NARA Sports Pavilion – Ms. Fochtman reported that a topographical study of the site surrounding the Sports Pavilion has been done by the Engineering Department to support the design of sidewalks around the building.c) Morrison Farm – The Board of Selectmen discussed what to do with the farm house and barn at its October 17, 2016 meeting. A decision was made to not sell the house parcel to any private interest. Selectmen will compile the proposals received to date for the house and barn and compare them for consideration at a future meeting.d) T.J. O’Grady Skate Park – The Skate Bowl was completed on October 25, 2016. The Recreation Department has received much positive feedback from the skaters. One skater has offered to help fundraise for Phase 2 construction of the Skate Plaza.e) Playgrounds – The grant received to enhance handicap accessibility at the Gardner Playground with a paved entrance to the basketball court will also include a spur to the first playground apparatus in the front. This pathway can serve in the future as the accessible entrance to a refurbished playground.f) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) – Proposals are due by November 14.
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: NONE.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 8:35 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>*