



**Town of Acton**  
**Recreation Commission**

**Minutes**

**ROOM 121**  
**ACTON TOWN HALL**

**DATE: January 10, 2017**

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Present were Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner, Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Mr. Tom Heinlein, Commission Chair, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Katie Green, Selectman, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, and Ms. Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Secretary.
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**TOPIC: CITIZEN'S CONCERNS:** Nothing to report.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	December 6, 2016 minutes
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	December 6, 2016 minutes accepted as amended, 4-0.

**ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM DECEMBER 6, 2016**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Ms. Fochtman is waiting for response for Town Counsel regarding edits to Model Airplane Policy.
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**TOPIC: 2017 RECREATION EVENTS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Ms. Fochtman handed out a list of upcoming Recreation Department events, eleven with free admission and eight ticketed or with some fee. The schedule is similar to preceding years but spread out over summer into August. Concert tickets are discounted in advance with a proportionately higher price at the gate. The current formula of keeping tickets within a reasonable price point has proven to work well; in the past, concerts priced at a higher amount have attracted a lesser draw. Ms. Gerhardt asked whether Walden Shakespeare will appear again and Ms. Fochtman replied that <i>The Tempest</i> will be performed on a date to be determined. The annual Independence Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, July 1; the logistics meeting with involved authorities has already taken place. Ms. Gerolamo asked about a rain date but Ms. Fochtman explained that this is not practical due to complexity of scheduling Police and Fire personnel, event transportation, lighting, signage, speakers and performers and cleanup before the following business week of privately-owned lots that allow parking. Ms. Fochtman invited the Commissioners to attend the Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 4. Winter Carnival features self-contained fun activities, food vendors and ice skating (weather permitting). Ms. Gerhardt suggested charging a parking fee for events. Ms. Fochtman replied that she will be meeting with Mr. Corey York, Director of Engineering, about the possibility of installing parking meters at NARA Park. She described how the NARA athletic fields are used for parking; event attendance is growing and a balance needs to be maintained between groups with field permits and the need for event overflow parking. She also explained how the new Sports Pavilion will be designed to improve traffic flow.</p>
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**TOPIC: COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE**

<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p>Mr. Tom Tidman approached Ms. Peggy Hebert about leasing a section of her property at 88 Prospect Street for the purpose of creating a new community garden in South Acton. A lease agreement was arranged with the approval of Town Counsel for the area (across the street from Acton ACE Hardware) which is separated from the rest of the field by a wetland. The area will be fenced. The water connection has been installed by the Acton Water District. Twenty-four plots are in the process of being rented for 2017. The Morrison Farm Community Garden has 50 plots, all of which have been rented, while North Acton Community Garden has 44 plots with several still available. Between the three locations Recreation oversees a total of 118 garden plots.</p>
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**TOPIC: MASTER PLAN**

<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p>Ms. Gerolamo helped with editing of the final draft. Recreation staff have been meeting with graphic artist, Lynn Horsky, to obtain pricing and to prepare for printing. Mr. Heinlein asked when the Plan would be finished and Ms. Fochtman replied that it should be out in February. Each Commissioner will receive a copy.</p>
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**REPORTS:**

<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Rail Trails – Paving work for the Assabet Rail Trail is on hiatus during winter. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail bridge over Route 2A was completed on schedule. Ms. Fochtman is reaching out to other towns with rail trails for their input as to what to expect, what resources will be required such as parking, and how local businesses may be impacted. Acton Police and Fire have met with other towns to discuss emergency vehicle access to rail trails and conservation lands.</li><li>b) NARA Sports Pavilion - Recreation has been meeting with the Office of Michael Rosenfeld to develop a design cost estimate. Specifications for the snack bar are being developed. The engineered plan has been put out to bid.</li><li>c) Morrison Farm – Ms. Green reported that the Board of Selectmen will work on narrowing down ideas about disposition of the farm house after Town Meeting.</li><li>d) T.J. O’Grady Skate Park – Recreation is awaiting response to a letter sent to a local philanthropist requesting donation of half of the \$40,000 needed to finish the skate park plaza construction (Patronicity crowdfunding is more effective with matching funds). ActonTV will make a short film of skaters in action to use as part of this appeal. Ms. Gerhardt commented positively on this means of reaching the public.</li><li>e) Playgrounds – The Commissioners responded positively to a generous offer by Ms. Bettina Abe of wooden signage bearing the name of each playground, as was done for the conservation areas. Additional signage possibilities were discussed. Ms. Gerhardt suggested posting photos of the signs on ActonTV.</li><li>f) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) – Ms. Fochtman invited the Commissioners to walk with her at NARA to see where the proposed new parking lots and restroom facilities under consideration for CPC funding would be located.</li></ul>
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**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: NONE.**

<p><b>MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:</b></p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.</p>
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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>*