



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

**Minutes**

**ROOM 121**  
**ACTON TOWN HALL**  
**7:00 PM**

**DATE: February 14, 2017**

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Present were Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner, Ms. Carol Gerolamo, 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: CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Ms. Fochtman received a telephone call a month ago from a parent whose child was injured colliding with the stage while sledding toward the NARA Park amphitheater. In past years hay bales have been placed along the stage for the Winter Carnival, but Mr. John Chalmers, who provided the hay, has retired. Signage warning people not to sled toward the stage is in place but is sometimes ignored. A related problem has been pedestrians knocked down by sleds going in that direction. The Recreation Department purchased construction-grade hay bales from the Erikson Granary at a cost of \$200 as a preventative measure. In the future the Recreation Department will continue to purchase hay bales to be positioned in front of the stage in December.
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**CONSENT AGENDA**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	January 10, 2017 minutes
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	January 10, 2017 minutes accepted as amended, 3-0.

**ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM JANUARY 10, 2017**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Ms. Fochtman is waiting for approval from Town Counsel of the proposed Model Airplane Policy.
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**TOPIC: NARA PARKING FEES**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Ms. Fochtman met with Mr. Corey York, Department of Public Works Director, for his input on implementing parking fees for NARA Park. Mr. York recently installed parking meters at the South Acton train station and suggested a parking sticker system with free vehicle parking stickers for Acton residents and a fee to non-residents. (Beach members would receive a sticker while those renting facilities would give names to the parking lot attendant.) Payment could be by an app, at a kiosk or to a gatekeeper – a low investment to start. The process must be quick and efficient to avoid backing up of traffic. The need for documentation of overcrowding and oversubscribing in the Park was discussed -- by photos, statistics and by other means. Ms. Fochtman and Ms. Rier plan to hire three or four seasonal parking lot attendants to rotate on weekends, especially for the lower lot. The Commissioners suggested five dollars as a reasonable parking fee for non-resident visitors. Ms. Fochtman asked the Commissioners to give this topic further thought and to consider preparing a presentation at the next Recreation Commission meeting for the Board of Selectmen.
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**TOPIC: RECREATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Ms. Fochtman nominated Mr. Steven T. Repucci as 2016 Recreation Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Will recommended two candidates: Mr. Bob Guba and Mr. Ross Lilly. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve all three.
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**TOPIC: MARA MASTER PLAN**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Town Manager reviewed the NARA Master Plan final draft and gave approval to move ahead to the Board of Selectman. The draft document has been provided to the Community Preservation Committee by posting online under Town of Acton Public Documents.
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**REPORTS:**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Rail Trails – Mr. Will mentioned a Community Preservation Committee request in the amount of \$170,000 for Acton contributions to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2B involving a small section of Acton. Ms. Fochtman has approached the Land Use Department about future maintenance of the Rail Trail. Mr. Matthew Selby, Land Use Director, will reach out to other communities to see what they do. Decisions will need to be made as to which Town entities are responsible for upkeep and what equipment will be required. A capital request by the Fire Department for an ATV was denied.</li><li>b) NARA Sports Pavilion – Ms. Fochtman met with Town Counsel regarding putting the project out to bid. The question of using volunteers was addressed; less-skilled tasks could possibly be assigned to those wishing to help. Electrical layout of the snack bar is being designed. Topographical studies by Stamski and McNary, Inc. will indicate proper positioning of accessible features.</li><li>c) Morrison Farm – Selectman Katie Green will address options for the farm house after Town Meeting.</li><li>d) T.J. O’Grady Skate Park – Surplus funds in the amount of \$24,000 from the skate bowl construction will be returned to Community Preservation since the CPC ruled no overlap between that phase and the future skate plaza. Recreation is seeking to raise \$20,000 in matching funds for completion of the park. The CPC expects Recreation to continue to pursue funds from the Town of Boxborough; Ms. Fochtman will seek a final word from the Boxborough Recreation Commission as to whether a contribution will again be sought from Boxborough. Ms. Rier suggested scaling back the project so that the park would have fewer amenities but additional funding would be unnecessary.</li><li>e) Playgrounds – Ms. Gerhardt commended Ms. Rier for her work on coordinating the renovation of Jones Playground and inquired whether the refurbished area might include a pickleball court. Various fundraising efforts are in progress. A group of five volunteers is on board to move the project forward. The Recreation Commissioners were invited to attend their next meeting on Monday, March 6, at 7:00pm in Town Hall Room 126. Ms. Fochtman reported a cricket pitch to be added to the School Street Field at the far end where soccer doesn’t play. The “Boston Bulls” team will make it their home as part of a regional league. Soccer and lacrosse groups who share the field have been informed.</li><li>f) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) – The Recreation Department has submitted three requests for CPC support including twenty-car expansion of the NARA upper and lower parking lots, construction of the NARA Picnic Pavilion Annex and a well at Morrison Farm. The CPC opposes the lower parking lot development based on appearance. The CPC recommended splitting the upper</li></ul>
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	and lower lots into separate requests. The CPC also suggested adding two more restrooms to the NARA Picnic Pavilion Annex. Ms. Fochtman is working with Romtec, Inc. to receive a quote to expand the proposal to four accessible restrooms. She handed out illustrations of various facilities for consideration (attached). The CPC will meet this Thursday to make its determinations.
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**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:**

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT WEEKEND HOURS AT NARA PARK:** There is a need for Recreation Department presence at NARA Park on spring and summer weekends. Ms. Fochtman plans to hire a seasonal worker to serve the public with information and the opportunity to register on-site for programs and activities. The satellite office is scheduled to operate May through August.

**NARA PARK SPRAY GROUND:** Ms. Carol Pikcilingis of the Acton Barn Cooperative has come forward to steer the organization and funding of a spray ground at NARA Park.

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:</b>	Meeting adjourned at 9:00 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>*