



Town of Acton

Recreation Commission

**ROOM 126
ACTON TOWN HALL
7:00 PM**

Minutes

DATE: September 5, 2017

ATTENDEES	Present were Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Mr. Stephen Trimble, Commissioner, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Barbara Willson, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator, Ms. Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Secretary, Ms. Katie Green, Board of Selectman Liaison, Ms. Joan Gardner, Selectman and Mr. Ed Holcomb, Resident.
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TOPIC: CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman had received an email the prior Sunday about a hornet's nest at the Gardner Playground in West Acton. The Natural Resources crew was unable to locate the nest. There was no further complaint.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	August 1, 2017 minutes
ACTION ITEM	August 1, 2017 minutes accepted as amended, 4:0.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM AUGUST 1, 2017 MINUTES

DISCUSSION	The Recreation Department is scheduled to move to its new location at 50 Audubon Drive in South Acton on Tuesday, September 19. Municipal Properties will oversee the move. Mail delivery and signage were discussed. Recreation staff will provide a map and directions to visitors seeking the new Senior Center at 30 Sudbury Road, former 50 Audubon Drive occupant. Ms. Fochtman distributed copies of the 2017-2018 Fall/Winter Recreation program booklet showing the new location on the cover.
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TOPIC: SUMMER PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

DISCUSSION	<p>Ms. Rier described working during the last three weeks of NARA Summer Camp in various roles filling in for staff that had already gone back to college. A tenth week was added in addition to the original plan. Parents had requested it because of the late school start so the extra week was quickly developed using five remaining staff and maximum 25 campers. Rather than a theme for the week there was a daily theme, and while there was no field trip the other activities were similar to the normal schedule.</p> <p>The Mighty Mini program had its best year ever. Decreasing the fee to offer a discount for the full day was a successful strategy encouraging enrollment.</p> <p>There were no beach closings this summer for the second year in a row, even though the weather pattern was opposite last year. Heavy rainfall such as was experienced this year usually causes bacteria growth due to runoff but this was not a problem.</p> <p>One reason the bacteria count was lower this year may have been attributable to the</p>
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	<p>introduction of a patrol program discouraging the presence of Canada geese on the beach. Two dogs and a canoe are used in a systematic manner to repeatedly approach the geese until they no longer return. Although there was negative feedback from a neighbor, the birds were never touched and were not harmed.</p> <p>The addition of NARA parking lot attendants to seasonal staff this year greatly improved control of the Park and prevented incidents such as have occurred in the past.</p> <p>Construction of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail at NARA was discussed. Paving of the 12-foot wide trail will be largely completed by December, with the trail scheduled to open next spring.</p>
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TOPIC: DOG PARK COMMITTEE UPDATE

DISCUSSION	<p>Ms. Fochtman reported that the Dog Park Committee has had two meetings with another scheduled for the upcoming Thursday. There is a charge on which to focus. The first goal is justification of a dog park in Acton. A draft document is being prepared as the first step in this process. Several locations are under consideration. Ms. Fochtman has assembled a series of maps illustrating nine possible sites. A further goal is to visualize what features and amenities a dog park in Acton should have.</p>
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rail Trails – Features of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail were discussed including mile markers and signage. (See also Summer Program Performance, above.) b) NARA Sports Pavilion – Ms. Fochtman reported that the project is nearly ready to be put out to bid. Ms. Fochtman will be meeting soon with the Office of Michael Rosenfeld about the final construction package. Lincoln Tree will provide stripping of vegetation for the parking area. Much of the site work around the buildings will be done by volunteers. Funding sources are being sought to complete the entire project in a single phase. c) Morrison Farm – See h) Community Gardens, below. d) T.J. O’Grady Skate Park – Fundraising was discussed for completion of Phase II construction. e) Playgrounds – Ms. Rier reported \$4,900 raised to date for the Jones Field renovation project. f) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) – The next meeting will be held on September 14. g) Rules for Drones/Model Aircraft – Ms. Fochtman reported that after consulting the Town Manager and Acton Police, the Recreation Department issued a permit to the Volpe Center to use the School Street Field to test drones for feedback to the FAA about drone operator ability to visually track drones flying at 400 feet. h) Community Gardens – Input is being sought from the Building Commissioner and Municipal Properties to install a separate electric meter at Morrison Farm as a cost-saving measure. <p>It was requested that the number be posted on each plot at the North Acton Community Garden. Rototilling of overgrown areas was discussed.</p>
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: The Town of Acton annual Employee Recognition Day will be held at NARA Park on September 8.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.
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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>*