

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

Minutes of Meeting

October 3, 2022

Attended: Chris Gerstel, Cynthia Chaston, Frederica Lalonde, Michelle Geddes, Dina Hannigan

Absent: None

Staff: Stacey Mulroy, Fabien Desrouleaux, Derek Moreau

Guests: Katie King, Josh Conlon, Lindsay Page, Marty Chang, and Participants from Zoom (5)

Call to Order (CTO)

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:00pm on October 3, 2022.

1. Town Manager Update

Assistant Town Manager – Katie King

Active Recreation Assets Working group (Focus Group) Discussed

- What needs should be discussed.
- Draft of Group (Has not been presented to Select Board yet)
 - Select Board Members (2)
 - Park and Recreation Commissioners (2)
 - Conservation Commission Member Designated Representative (1)
 - School Committee Member or Designated Representative (1)
 - Finance Committee Member or Designated Representative (1)
 - Community Preservation Committee Member or Designated Representative (1)
 - Community Member at large (1)
- Discussion For Specifics from Feasibility Study and Focus Group
 - Focus Group (Makes Recommendations)
 - Would start right away
 - (9) Members Titles
 - Facilities and Needs

Commission Comment: Chris Gerstel stated that all groups have been touched upon, but should the following groups be added as well (Library, Schools, Conservation).

Cynthia Chaston asked: What are our next steps?

Michelle Geddes asked: Is this Group going to be an ongoing thing or will they meet just to discuss these topics once?

Assistant Town Manager Comment: What are the specifics of the Feasibility study versus what the Focus group would be discussing.

- Facilities/Fields
 - Dog Park and Ice rink have not come up to the P+R Commission
 - The Select Board has heard about the Dog Park (quite a bit since Covid-19 began)

Public Comment: The Harvest Fair showed lots of Support to the Skatepark Idea. The Group Advocating for this facility has also been communicating to gather information to present.

Discussion about request for Floodlights at (1) tennis court.

2. Chair's Update

None present.

3. Director's Report

Park and Recreation Director Stacey Mulroy

- Court Badge Numbers with date ranges (Pre-August and Beginning of September-present)
- Mills broken tennis net (Process of being fixed)
- Discussions on closing Tennis Courts (how, when, and issues that may rise) (Risks and Rewards)

Commission Comment: Chris Gerstel asked: What were Pickleball complaints at the Harvest Fair?

Assistant Director's Comment: The complaints involved were Costs, Fees, and Usage.

Rosemary Pools

- Weston and Sampson will be fixing the gutters and installing marker stickers in the family pool
- This year's closing is taking longer than usual because of pool updates.

Fields and Facilities

- Outdoor Bathrooms
 - Company is still doing an unacceptable job with cleaning these facilities
 - Porta-Potties have been placed at Greene's Field and DeFazio Complex
- DeFazio Complex
 - DPW staff regraded the Parking lot
 - Parking is still a concern
- Tennis Courts at NHS
 - Directors is working on a bid package for the NHS Courts
- Issues at Pickleball/Tennis Courts
 - Number of Private Lessons
 - Complaints of Pickleball taking over all the courts at Mills
 - This will be brought to the attention of the Park Ranger

- AED boxes
 - Began process to get the boxes installed
- Staffing
 - Park Ranger begins October 17, 2022
 - Still looking for Staff/volunteers for various Programs/Events

4. Additional Discussion Items

- Commission Goals
 - Do our goals match the Select Boards
- Field Fees and Field Summit
 - None Presented
- Capital Project
 - Park and Recreation Director will write/research the specifics of Feasibility Study
- CPC
 - No Update
- Playgrounds and Facilities
 - Harvest Fair was a big hit at Greene's Field
 - Newman tire swing was removed (turf is worn and unsafe)
 - New Programs (Cricket Fitness, Indoor Soccer)
 - Need to Discuss with Vendors about Marketing

5. Action Items & Approvals

Christmas Tree Sales

Motion – Cynthia Chaston
2nd – Dina Hannigan
5-0 Unanimous

Jog your Memory 5K

Motion – Dina Hannigan
2nd – Michelle Geddes
4-0 (1 Abstained)

Fall Fee Recommendations

Motion – Cynthia Chaston
2nd - Dina Hannigan
5-0 Unanimous

Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2022

Motion – Cynthia Chaston
2nd – Michelle Geddes
5-0 Unanimous

6. Topics For Future Meetings

- Playgrounds
- User Fees and Policies (For Spring, Summer, and Fall 2023)
- Commission Goals

7. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated

- None Presented

8. Next Meetings

- Wednesday October 26, 2022
- Monday November 14, 2022
- Monday November 28, 2022
- Monday December 12, 2022

9. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Motion – Cynthia Chaston

2nd – Dina Hannigan

5-0 Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 8:51pm on October 3, 2022

Respectfully Submitted.

Derek Moreau Jr.

Administrative Specialist