

Recreation Commission Minutes

Date: 6/5/2018

Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Dr., Acton MA, 7:00pm

Attendees: Edward Holcomb, Commissioner, Stephen Trimble, Commissioner, Joe Will, Commissioner, Barbara Willson, Commissioner, Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator, Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Office Manager

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Trimble at 7:00 pm.
2. Citizen's Concerns:
 - a. Cathy has received multiple reports concerning the Rail Trail segment of NARA Park including speed of bicycles and hazards of two-way combined pedestrian/bicycle traffic. Issues with Rail Trail safety and "rules of the road" at intersections throughout Acton were discussed and whether sensors should be installed. Rail Trail signage in Acton has been shown to differ from that of other towns; the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail organization has offered to pay to have it replaced with conforming signage. Future concerns over Rail Trail safety and traffic flow at NARA will be documented.
 - b. Cathy received a request from a resident to review Gardner Playground. Ant hills in the lawn area pose a health hazard and play structures need to be updated. The Natural Resources crew will treat for ants and Cathy will meet with the citizen to take photos of the play structures and discuss possible fundraising for replacement.
3. Consent Agenda: April 10, 2018 Minutes. April 10, 2018 Minutes accepted as amended, 4:0.
4. Action Item Review from April 10, 2018 Minutes:
Cathy will contact Tac Palmer for his input on how to address citizen concerns over unleashed dogs in NARA Park.
5. Recreation Volunteer of the Year:
The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve Gail Sawyer as Recreation Volunteer of the Year. As head of Emergency Management for Acton Gail has supported NARA events for many years with First Aid stations.
6. Fall Field Fees for Youth Leagues:
Cathy shared a spreadsheet detailing the history of field maintenance costs paid by the Recreation revolving fund with a goal to re-capture highlighted items through user fees. The leagues were charged a \$500 preliminary fee this spring. She would like to introduce a higher level of turf care on a regular pro-active schedule. A meeting with all leagues will be scheduled to plan for next year.
7. Reports:
 - a) Rail Trails: The Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail asked Cathy to have the locks replaced on four kiosks along the route. She will schedule Patriot Lock to do the work and the

Friends will then reimburse Recreation for the cost. The Friends have offered to fund 2 porta-potties along the Trail, one behind Donelan's on Gould's private property and the other near Chelmsford.

b) NARA Sports Pavilion: A cost estimate is being prepared for the restroom module which will then go to bid. The architect's plan is near finalization.

c) T.J. O'Grady Skate Park: The Town of Boxborough voted at its town meeting to approve \$20,000 toward finishing the Skate Park. Cathy has called the designer for a quote on engineered plans; the designer is also assisting with fundraising support. Steve Trimble has volunteered to help organize a GoFundMe site to help raise the amount needed for completion.

d) Playgrounds: Melissa reported approaching \$10,000 in donations for Jones Playground. This Sunday a Fun Run with obstacles for kids ages 2 – 12 will take place to help raise funds. Steve Trimble volunteered to help with the event.

A citizen who had recently reported a clogged water fountain at Goward expressed appreciation for how quickly it was fixed.

e) Community Preservation Committee: Nothing to report.

f) Community Gardens:

North Acton: Ed reported a collapsed picnic table that fell apart during mowing. Cathy will have the Natural Resources crew replace it.

Hebert Farm: An informational kiosk and a picnic table are being built as an Eagle Scout project.

Morrison Farm: Tom Tidman located a shed to be donated by a local business to house the new well pump assembly. The shed will also provide storage space for Land Steward tools. Tom is in the process of getting the shed moved to the paddock area of the Morrison Farm property. He met with Mary Anne Ashton who approved the project.

8. New Business:

Charitable fund-raising events at NARA were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Minutes submitted by Mary Lou Repucci.