



**Town of Acton  
Recreation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**DATE: JANUARY 8, 2013**

**6:45 PM**

**TOWN CLERK, ACTON  
ROOM 121, ACTON TOWN HALL**

**ATTENDEES**

Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Vice-Chair, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner; Mr. Steve Leo, Commissioner (late), Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Selectman John Sonner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary, Ms. Melissa Rier, Natural Resources, Mr. William Mullin, Citizen.

**AGENDA TOPICS**

Meeting called to order at: 6:45 PM

**Citizens Concerns:** None to report

**CONSENT AGENDA**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	December 4, 2012 minutes
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	December 4, 2012 minutes were accepted as amended, 4-0

**TOPIC: Action Item Review**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Nothing reviewed.
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**TOPIC: MORRISON FARM UPDATE**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mr. Mullin requested a support letter by the Commissioners to the CPC. The Morrison Farm application has been submitted. Mr. Mullin requested input from the Commissioners regarding the playground. He discussed the importance of highlighting the historic locations surrounding Morrison Farm. A vote was taken and approved 5-0 to send a letter of support of the Morrison Farm application to CPC.
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	Ms. Fochtman will forward a letter onto the Planning Department and Mr. Mullin. Ms. Rier will obtain a revised quote relating to the playground.

**TOPIC: WINTER CARNIVAL**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Winter Carnival event is scheduled for February 2, 2013. The Rotary Club of Acton-Boxborough will support the Human Dog Sled event. There will be a snowball toss and many other attractions and events to participate in. The Commissioners will try to attend in support of this event.
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**TOPIC: GOWARD PLAYGROUND**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mr. Leo happily announced the Friends of the Playground have met their goal. The purchasing of the equipment is being addressed at this time however the installation of the equipment will be placed out to bid. Redmond Corp. is donating labor and the Town of Acton crew will assist in removing the old equipment.
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	Ms. Fochtman will write a letter to the Board of Selectman regarding the obsolete equipment. A quote to obtain signage thanking particular sponsors will be obtained.

**TOPIC: 2013 FEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Ms. Fochtman presented the Commissioners with a recommendation for a slight increase in fees for NARA Camp and Beach Memberships. Fees have not risen in many years. The Commissioners suggested posting the documentation outlining the reasons for the fee increases on the website.
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	The fee increases will be posted to the Town of Acton Recreation webpage, under, "Frequently Asked Questions". The Commissioners voted 5-0 to recommend the fee increases to the Board of Selectmen.

**REPORT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	a) Miracle Field – Miracle League of Massachusetts provided a support letter to the CPC for a Comfort Station. They are fundraising for bleachers and shade structures. Field use schedule will be provided to the Rec Dept. this month. b) NARA Parking Lot Expansion – An ice rink will be attempted for Winter Carnival. c) CPC – There are multiple proposals under consideration: NARA Picnic Pavilion, Elm St. Playground and Tennis Court, NARA Comfort Station, and Arboretum Wildflower Boardwalk. d) School Street – A one-year lease extension was granted by the state for 2013. e) Playground Update – Elm Street measurements were obtained in hopes to reuse equipment from Acton Children's School.
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January 8, 2012

FINAL MINUTES – MEETING ADJOURNED 8:55pm

- f) Open Space & Recreation Plan – “PARC” grant eligibility is dependent on the Town filing a current Open Space and Recreation Plan with the state. It is scheduled to be submitted this spring.
- g) NARA Park Pavilion Update – The Pavilion is on the list to receive funding.
- h) Recreation Operations – NARA Beach, NARA Camp will open for registration this month. There is pending legislation, “Christian’s Law”, which will require that municipal camps provide Coast Guard approved life jackets to all non-swimmers attending camp. Ms. Fochtman is being updated by Town Counsel on the requirements as the regulations are formulated, likely this May-June.

**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION – NOTHING TO REPORT**

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	8:55PM
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*\*Supporting and referenced documentation relating to these minutes are available on the Docushare site;  
<https://doc.action-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-1985>*