



**Town of Acton
Recreation Commission**

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**MINUTES
DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

TOWN HALL

ACTON

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Chair, Ms. Betsy Mercier, Commissioner, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Natural Resources (notetaker), Ms. Katie Green, Selectman, Ms. Vandana Sharma and Mr. Vivek Sharma, Citizens, Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary (absent).
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AGENDA TOPICS

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM

TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERN

DISCUSSION	Vandana Sharma who lives in Robbins Mill Subdivision, wants better equipment (like swings) at the Robbins Mill Recreation area. Playground currently has a lot of climbing equipment. Ms. Fochtman remarked that if we were to install a two bay swing set, it would take up most of the space and we'd have to remove most of the equipment. The space is 50' x 55'. Vandana Sharma interviewed her 9 year old daughter and video recorded it and brought it to the meeting. The child spoke about wanting swings. They want something more challenging. The Sharmas will poll the neighbors to get consensus on what they collectively would like to see in the playground. Ms. Fochtman suggested some funding sources: CPA, grants, etc...
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	January 2014 minutes
ACTION ITEM	January 2014 approved as amended, 3-0

TOPIC: Action Item Review – None

TOPIC: BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman updated the Commission about the plans for the trail. Natural Resources Department to ensure that the trail will have proper signage due to park patrons and bikers sharing the trail. Recreation Commission is in favor of combining the rail trail with the NARA trail, rather than taking down the line of trees. Chairman McKeever-Matz moved that the Commission approve the redesign of the shared BFRT with as little disruption to the existing trees and landscape as possible in collaboration with the Acton's Natural Resources Department. Mr. Will seconded. 3:0 Motion passed.
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TOPIC: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

DISCUSSION	Public meeting, February 13 th : Open to citizens to come and give their opinions on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Ms. Fochtman asked if a Commissioner is available to attend; awaiting confirmation from Ms. Mercier.
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TOPIC: GOWARD PLAYGROUND

DISCUSSION	Working on completing the train installation. Central Nurseries is going to get back to Ms. Fochtman with a date for the installation. Recreation Department will be ordering picnic tables – 2 standard, 1 ADA compliant. Steve Leo asked if we could add some natural features to the Playground like boulders. Lazaro will be doing the paving sometime in the Spring. Official opening date: Ms. Fochtman suggested end of May 2014.
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TOPIC: VETERANS FIELD SIGNAGE REQUEST

DISCUSSION	Ms. Mercier moved that Acton Boxborough Youth Baseball be approved to place champion team signage on the Green Monster scoreboard at Veterans Field. Mr. Will seconded, the motion passed 3:0.
ACTION ITEM	Ms. Fochtman will forward this recommendation for Board of Selectman approval.

REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	a) Miracle Field: Miracle League is planning on doing Father's Day Funfest again b) Community Preservation Committee: Reviewed the CPC's priority of Recreation Projects (handout). c) School Street: Nothing new to report. d) Playground Update: Citizens concern about changing some equipment at Robbins Mill. e) Open Space & Recreation Plan: Public meeting on Thursday, February 13 th rescheduled. f) NARA Park Pavilion Update: Weather has slowed down the construction. Fees need to be updated for rentals; will be reviewed by Town Fee Committee. g) T.J. O'Grady Skate Park: Signed contract with ASD/Stantec. Recreation Department had a meeting with them last week. ASD/Stantec requested as built CAD design plans to help with the new design process.
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	<p>i) NARA Comfort Station: Nothing to report j) Morrison Farm: Nothing to report</p>
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

1. 68 HARRIS STREET PURCHASE.
2. BOS TOOK IT OFF THE BUDGET FOR 2015.
3. NOT A LOT OF SUPPORT FOR IT.
4. BOS WANTS TO FINALIZE THE ENTIRE TOWN EMPLOYEE SPACE NEEDS PLAN BEFORE PURCHASING PROPERTY

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	8:50 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>*