

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
April 25, 2011**

PRESENT: Thomas M. Jacob, Chairman
Michael J. Retzky, Vice Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Brian S. Nadler, Member
Andrea L. Shorthose, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor
Fred Sewall, Carol Sewall, Nehoiden Knoll, Inc.

The meeting convened at 6:30 PM in the Inner Space located at the Pollard Middle School

1. **Minutes of Meeting of April 11, 2011:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nadler and the motion was approved.

Minutes of Meeting of Annual Re-Organization Meeting April 11, 2011: Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2011 Annual Re-Organization meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nadler and the motion was approved.

2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Mr. Nadler welcomed new Commission member Ms. Andrea Shorthose. He also asked when the sink hole at McLeod Field would be repaired. Ms. Carey indicated the sod farm opened last week so once Parks and Forestry can get the sod installed the repair will be completed and ready for use in mid May.

3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported that there have been numerous clean up efforts in Town recently.
4/12 Monsignor Haddad Middle School cleaned the Reservoir area.
4/21 Sud Chemie Prototech cleaned Mills Field and Gould St. property.
4/21 Members of the Charles River Center cleaned up around Ridge Hill.
4/23 Needham 300 Town Wide Clean Up – over 50 people cleaned up the following locations: at Claxton, Greene's Field, Memorial Park, Needham HS, DeFazio Park, Pollard Middle School, corner of Harris and Great Plain, triangle on corner of School St. and Dedham Ave. There was a report of a ring and tax return found at Claxton Field in addition to numerous plastic tags left over from the Christmas tree sales in December. A reminder will be sent to the Boosters about cleaning up after the Christmas tree sales are over. 78 bags of trash were collected. Volunteer registration began on April 13th with over 70 students registering the first day. On April 18 the Needham 300 Committee kicked off the spring season of 300 Laps for 300 Years at DeFazio Track. Approximately 12 people attended. Ms. Peirce attended the Senior

Resource Fair Sponsored by the TRIAD Committee on April 21 to share information from the Disability Commission, Needham 300 and the Park and Recreation Commission programs and special events.

4. Discussion Items:

- A. Town Meeting Review:** Ms. Carey reported that there will be 2 relevant projects for Park and Recreation that include funds for a study for renovating the Cricket Field House and \$25,000 for improvements to the playground equipment at Walker Gordon Field. There is also an article for athletic facility improvements at Walker Gordon Field. There is a citizens petition to change the zoning in order to allow for a farmers market in Needham but it is not a Park and Recreation related item.
- B. CPA Legislation:** Ms. Carey announced the CPA hearing was held at the State House on April 13th. Dave DiCicco from the Memorial Park Trustees spoke on behalf of the recreation portion of the bill. Letters of support were sent from the Park and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission and the Community Preservation Committee prior to the hearing.
- C. Trails Update:** Ms. Peirce reported that she has connected with the Assistant Director of Park and Recreation in Dover and the Director of Park and Recreation in Medfield to begin talking about the proposed Bay Colony Rail Trail that will pass through Needham, Dover and Medfield along the abandoned rail road track. The Eco Explorer meeting on April 14th was a prep meeting to assign duties and sections of the Mitchell Woods trail that will be cleaned up at the May 12th meeting. On Saturday April 30th the Needham Park and Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission will be hosting the first Trail Day at Ridge Hill Reservation. The nature walk begins at 9:30 and the trail clean up begins at 10:30 until 12:30PM. Ms. Peirce invited the Commissioners to attend. On April 26th Ms. Peirce and Conservation Agent Patty Barry will meet with two Eagle Scouts at Ridge Hill and then go to the Town Forest to determine the scope of each of their projects. Ms. Peirce and Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen met Eagle Scout Max Bohnert at Walker Gordon to finalize the location of his Eagle Scout Project which consists of building 2 benches and planting 3 flower beds next to the sun dial.
- D. Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey reported she is meeting two environmental specialists at Rosemary Pool on April 26th to oversee the start of the Rosemary Lake draining process. She also reported that she attended a hearing regarding the law suit filed by a Needham resident. The judge is taking the complaint under advisement and will make a decision in the near future.
- E. Commission Goals:** Mr. Jacob suggested that the Commissioners review the current list of important issues and goals which was included in the Commission packet and be ready to discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Nadler suggested once the duties and goals are updated each Commissioner have an opportunity to report on the progress of the areas they are working on. Ms. Carey shared her goals for FY2011 as set by Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. Mr. Jacob

suggested creating a document that would list all of the items that are ongoing in the Park and Recreation Department with updates as changes occur.

5. Action Items:

- A. Special Event Request: Little League Amendment for Opening Day:** Needham Little League has made a request to switch the rain date for Little League Opening Day from Sunday, May 8th to Saturday, May 7th as not to interfere with Mother's Day celebrations. They noted that other teams will be using DeFazio Fields so the event would be scaled down eliminating the parade from Greene's Field. The teams would meet at DeFazio, have a short opening ceremony and then serve hot dogs at the Pavilion. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the Needham Little League amendment for Opening Day to be held on Saturday, May 7, 2011. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- B. Request to Accept Easement: Camp Property:** Ms. Carey shared the Declaration and Grant of Footpath Easement by Nehoiden Knoll, Inc. to the Town of Needham, Massachusetts. The easement would allow pedestrian access to the Camp Property. Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the Request to Accept Easement at the Camp Property that will provide a pedestrian easement to the property. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Frederick and Carol Sewall from Nehoiden Knoll, Inc. were in attendance, and the Commission thanked them for the project, and Mr. and Mrs. Sewall expressed their thanks for the approval.. The Commission members signed the legal document.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Mr. Nadler indicated he would like to schedule a meeting with Memorial Park Trustee Dave DiCicco to complete the Policies and Procedures document. Once it is completed he will present it to the Commissioners for a final review before presenting it at a public meeting. The goal is to have the updated Policies and Procedures document accepted and ready to be implemented by the Fall of 2011.

7. Adjournment: Mr. Nadler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston, and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director