

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

## **Minutes of Meeting April 28, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Christopher R. Dollase, Chairman  
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chair  
William R. Dermody, Member  
Brian S. Nadler, Member  
Philip V. Robey, Member  
Patricia M. Carey, Director  
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

**GUESTS:** Bob Cohen, Resident  
Julie Stevens, Resident

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

1. **Minutes of Meeting April 14, 2008:** Mr. Dermody made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2008 meeting. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
2. **Financial Report:** Ms. Carey noted that a request has been submitted to Town Meeting to move \$6000 from purchase of service to the expenses line of the budget. It is on the May 12<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting.
3. **Correspondence:** None Presented
4. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, May 3 and the Pollard Middle School students will be stocking the Reservoir on Tuesday April 29<sup>th</sup>. She and Ms. Carey continue to interview for summer positions.
5. **Discussion Items:**
  - A. **Director's Report:** A written report was submitted prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chaston asked about the Special Town Meeting Warrant article for the renovation of the Mills Tennis Courts. The amount on the warrant will remain as it is written because the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant award information has not been released at this time. There was some discussion regarding the Town Hall renovation and the different options. The Exchange Club project committee has chosen the Claxton Tot Lot for their service project. They would add two new small playground structures, move the grills and rebuild handicapped access from the parking lot to the climbing structure and over to the swings.
  - B. **Field Construction Update:** Ms. Carey reported the construction company will start putting up fencing around the construction site at Memorial Park sometime this week. She will be attending a meeting on Wednesday, April 30 with representatives from the Sports Council, RAD Construction, the High School, Police and Fire Departments and other Town departments to coordinate the renovation process. Ms. Carey will write a

letter to be sent to the Sports Council indicating the construction time line and when the fields will be able to be used. Mrs. Chaston asked about the progress on the Claxton bathrooms. Ms. Carey said the project should mostly be completed within the week except for the railing.

**C. Field Scheduling Planning:** In order to plan for future field scheduling Mr. Dollase suggested the Commission invite all the sport user groups to a mini Field Summit in June to plan for short term and long term field use. It will take about a year of using the new fields to determine the needs for future fields. Mr. Dollase suggested putting together a field study committee to look at the long term needs. Ms. Carey indicated the group could be comprised of the youth sports organization presidents working together for long term results. Mr. Nadler asked if the Commission could take a break from fields and focus on a community center for multigenerational programming.

**D. Other Business:** Mr. Nadler suggested a review of the Commission responsibilities at a future meeting. He also suggested a fence be installed at Newman to keep the balls out of the wooded area.

**6. Action Items:**

**A. Town Meeting Preparation:** Ms. Carey reviewed the warrant for Town Meeting with the Commission. Mr. Dermody made a motion to remove the Cricket Renovation proposal from the May Town Meeting Warrant. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved. The Cricket Renovation project will be withdrawn from the warrant to be revisited at another time. Mr. Nadler asked if there was a lower cost option for the Cricket renovation. Mr. Dollase would like to speak to the Commission on Disabilities to get their input to renovate the building for full accessibility. Mr. Dermody and Mr. Nadler will review the former Cricket plans to see if there is another way to configure the building. In the meantime Ms. Carey will have some carpentry repairs done prior to the summer use.

**B. First May Meeting Date:** Due to Town Meeting scheduled Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> the Commissioners decided to only have one meeting this month. The date will be determined and announced at a later time.

**7. Adjournment:** Mr. Robey made a motion to adjourn the meeting 7:24 PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:24PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS  
Assistant Director