

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

**Minutes of Meeting
September 9, 2019**

PRESENT: Christopher J. Gerstel, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman
David C. DiCicco, Member
Michelle S. Geddes, Member
Matthew M. Toolan, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Angela O'Connor, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Mark Verville, President Needham Youth Boys Lacrosse
Jeff Birnbaum, Needham Youth Boys Lacrosse

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Rosemary Recreation Complex.

1. **Minutes of Meeting – August 26, 2019:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Toolan. The motion was approved.
2. **Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. The Commission changed their November meeting dates to November 4th and November 18th to avoid conflicts with Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving week. Ms. Carey also noted that she would not be present at the September 23rd meeting. Mrs. Chaston and Mrs. Geddes noted that they would not be present at the October 7th meeting. Ms. Carey discussed that so far there are no concerns with Eversource on the construction of the South St. boat launch project. Mr. Gerstel asked about the Rosemary sediment removal project and why there is such a disparity with the timing of the project with BETA estimating 6-8 months and Maverick estimating 6-10 weeks. Ms. Carey explained that BETA suggested a different method for vehicle access to the lake. Maverick's contract requires the project to be completed prior to the summer season.. Mr. Gerstel asked about the status of speed limit signs at DeFazio. Ms. Carey stated that she has not placed the order yet.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. O'Connor gave a brief overview of the "GAP" programs, Sports Unlimited and Intro to Field Hockey. Ms. O'Connor also stated that fall registrations are underway.
4. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **Lacrosse Wall Update:** Mr. Gerstel reported concerns about the lacrosse wall project. Boys Lacrosse had proposed a plan to the Commission in June, but there were issues with construction, including broken sprinkler system, and damage to McLeod diamond. Needham Boys Lacrosse representative Jeff Birnbaum reported that they had worked

with DPW Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen to take care of the broken sprinkler and other issues. Boys Lacrosse President Mark Verville noted that the wall would be professionally painted, and then students from Pollard will paint the Rocket logo. It is expected this will be done within a few weeks, and Mr. Verville and Mr. Birnbaum will work with Mr. Olsen to complete the field repairs.

- B. Summer Field Projects Updates:** Ms. Carey reported that the Cricket project is complete and in full use. Ms. Carey also reported that Memorial Park field is done, however still has a punch list of items that need to be done. Needham High School Freshmen Football team used it on Friday, Soccer Club on Saturday and the Needham Flag Football League on Sunday. Ms. Carey reported that the stitching in the logos were finished, today at DeFazio and in-fill will begin. The hope is to have the paint done later in the week.
- C. Playgrounds Capital Planning:** Ms. Carey has met with one vendor to get some concepts for Cricket Field to add ADA features, with funding already approved at Town Meeting. Due to the site slopes, it is easier to add a small play area near the road, off of Cricket # 2. (See attached concept.) Ms. Carey reported the concept with everything included (installation & surfacing) would cost \$45,000. The Commission raised concerns about the cost and distance from the other playground. Ms. Carey will get additional concepts, and the Commission will each visit the site.
- D. Rosemary Recreation Complex:** Ms. Carey reported that the geese have been away and that the grass would be sprayed tomorrow with the repellent. Mr. Gerstel noted that keeping the pools open until the Friday before Labor Day was an incredible feat and thanked all the staff for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Toolan reported that he would like to see a schedule of how the multi-purpose room is being utilized.
- E. Capital Budget Planning:** Ms. Carey reviewed the Budget Planning and explained that everything that was updated was in red. (See attached plan) Ms. Carey noted that Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen is looking into changing the diamond at Eliot to synthetic turf. Mr. Toolan asked if turf left over from the current projects could be used at Eliot, but Ms. Carey said that it has already been recycled by the contractor. Ms. Carey reported that DPW would ask to add a walking path at DeFazio's multi-purpose fields in 2023. Mrs. Geddes asked if it would be an asphalt path or stone dust. Ms. Carey stated that the Commission would be consulted during the design phase. Mr. DiCicco expressed concern about a building drainage issue at Newman impacting field conditions. Ms. Carey stated that it was an issue from the most recent building renovation and that DPW is working on the resolution.

5. Action Items:

- A. Needham High School Boosters:** Ms. Carey noted that this was an annual event and there were no conflicts. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the request from the Needham High Boosters to hold their annual Christmas Tree Sale at Claxton from November 22- December 24. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Geddes and approved.

6. **Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours:** Mr. Gerstel asked if there was any update on the school administrative study. Ms. Carey noted that she will ask for an update. Ms. Carey announced to the Commission that she would be retiring in early 2020. The hope is to have the new director on board by March, but all the details need to be worked out. Assistant Town Manager Christopher Coleman will provide an overview to the Commission on the hiring process. Ms. Carey noted that she had just complete her 46th summer and had worked in the office for 34 years. The Commission congratulated Ms. Carey.
7. **Topics for Future Agendas:** None presented.
8. **Adjournment of Meeting:** Mr. DiCicco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela O'Connor
Assistant Director