



## RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 3, 2024

7:00 PM

Remote Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Hema Santhanakrishnan (HS), Commissioner; Joe Will (JW), Chair; Steve Trimble (ST), Clerk; Melissa Settipani-Rufo (MSR), Recreation Director.

**Absent:** David Martin (DM) Select Board Liaison

**Public Attendees:** Jeff Bergart; Tom Gillispie; Cathy Fochtman; Thomas Begin, Assistant Town Manager; Clare Siska; Rich Doherty; Dennis Dale; Karen Martin.

JW opened the meeting opened at 7:04 PM

### **I. New/Special Business, Part I**

1. Update on Sewer Extension Project (joint meeting with Acton Dog Park Committee (ADPC))
  - i. Tom Gillispie reviewed the SB meeting discussion on Monday. The sewer extension bids came in over \$1M higher than budgeted. John Mangiaratti is discussing with MassWorks on options. John contacted the Stanton Foundation who confirmed that if the project went out to bid by April 2025 the grant would stay in place. Jim Snyder Grant will continue this topic at another SB meeting in April.
  - ii. JW asked if the middle property could be used for the Dog Park. Tom said it was a possible option to look at.
  - iii. Tom raised the OSRP work and indicated Karen Martin will review for the ADPC. MSR directed Karen to comment directly to the OSRP team.
2. Adjournment of ADPC Meeting. Karen moved to adjourn, Clare seconded, unanimously approved and the meeting ended at 7:15 PM.

### **II. Recreation Commission Regular Business**

3. Review of meeting minutes from March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. No comments raised. Minutes accepted as amended.
4. Residents' Concerns.
  - a. ST asked DM about his understanding of the comment regarding Recreation staffing in the document from Jim Snyder-Grant concerning the Town Manager's review. DM reported to not have any insight of its meaning or who might have submitted it.
5. Reports:
  - a) *Events, Programs, & Facilities*
    - a. Events
      - i. Everything is in process and on schedule. The Drag show opens the event series on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, and the LGBTQ+ PRIDE Festival follows that event on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.
      - ii. The 3rd and last marionette show is coming up. The July 4th and the concert series are in place.
      - iii. Holi event Saturday at NARA.

- iv. Fall events include the annual Monsterbash party and the new (2023) “Nightmare at NARA” haunted trail walk.
- b. Programs:
  - i. Soccer, archery, pickleball, and tennis are underway.
  - ii. New for this year is a set of programming for people with disabilities (karate, etc.) in conjunction with Carlisle Recreation.
- c. Facilities
  - i. Rentals are going strong. Maura took this over from MSR and this duty is now being re-assigned to Paula Walsh (senior worker). Paula also works at the snack bar in the summer.

*c) Community Preservation Act*

- a) *Current Projects*
  - o *Gardner Playground Renovation*
    - Nothing to report.
    - ST raised concerns on the parking on the driveway and on the lawn on the right entering the park. JW noted the first parking spot on the left on 111 as one drives out of the park can block one's view to the west (a parked pickup truck in this instance). DM took both concerns as an action item.
  - o *NARA Bridge Boardwalk*
    - Completed
    - ADA accessible
    - The cost came in slightly greater due to necessary water level mitigation. The additional cost was covered from the Recreation Revolving Fund.
- b) *2024 Projects*
  - o Jones Shade Structure
  - o Sports Plaza Shade Structure priority one
  - o Dog Park
    - All three CPA requests moved forward to the Town Warrant with full funding.

### **III. New/Special Business, Part II**

- 6. Other Recreation Projects:
  - i. Disc Golf Update
    - 1. MSR met with Conservation Commission to discuss having a course at Camp Acton. Although not in full agreement many felt this area was intended only for passive recreation. MSR is exploring using the area north of the pump track with a company that designs and installs disc golf courses. MSR requested a GIS map and plans to get a design. JW favored the location as it offers Sachem Way access to recreational opportunities. MSR said next step would be to approach town management and then the Select Board.
  - ii. Concord Road Well Replacement
    - 1. Competed at a cost of \$17k. The vendor fully tested the pump, and it stopped after a minute so the vendor is coming back to adjust it.
- 7. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)
  - b. The OSRP is expected for review and Nora requested a letter of approval by April 30 with instructions to send any comments to the OSRP email shell.

- c. The OSRP should be completed by this summer.
- 8. May Meeting Update – Canceled.
- 9. Additional Business
  - d. Cathy Fochtman invited all to the May 18<sup>th</sup> Garden Club Sale from 9 AM – 1PM. She noted an invasive “Jumping Worm” that disturbs the soil and is seen late in the season. There is concern on the impact to sugar maples as it leaves the soil bereft of nutrients. A telltale sign of the creature is to find objects that look like coffee grounds. It is hard to prevent and **is** found at the Arboretum. She will send a flyer to the Commission.
  - e. Jeff Bergart noted there would be an invasive weeds presentation re the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) at Pedal Power on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Now that the completion of the BFRT is in sight the focus needs to shift on how to best use it.

ST motions to adjourn, HS seconded, all approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

**Upcoming Recreation Commission Meetings**

Date	Time	Location
June 5, 2024	7:00 PM	Virtual
No July Meeting		