



RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 07, 2025

3:00 PM

Acton Recreation Center

50 Audubon Drive, Acton, MA 01720

Present: Jeff Bergart (JB), Commissioner; Mike Collins(MC); Recreation Program Manager; David Martin (DM) Select Board Liaison; Melissa Settipani-Rufo (MSR), Recreation Director; Steve Trimble (ST), Clerk; Joe Will (JW), Chair

Absent: none

Public Attendees: none

JW opened the meeting at 2:59 PM.

I. Recreation Commission Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from April 04, 2025. JW sent small corrections to MSR. JB moved to accept the minutes, and they were accepted as amended.
2. Residents' Concerns.

Trash removal update from BFRT maintained by a volunteer: JB sent a letter to the town manager to see what it would cost. MSR has a weekly meeting with Assistant Town Manager Thom Begin, and he thought currently the answer to supply trash receptacles is "no" due to staffing. JB thought the town manager might be considering overtime. MSR suggested removing the trash cans and replacing them with carry-in / carry-out signs. ST concurred with MSR.

JB heard from Senator Eldridge who might have \$50k for the Friends of BFRT. JB collaborated with Corey York, DPW Head, and they thought hurricane leaf blowers would be useful on the BFRT and could be purchased by June 30th.

3. Reports:

a) *Events, Programs, & Facilities*

- a. No updates on shows. JW inquired about the Taylorville show ticket sale status and MSR thought it was at 400. Breakeven is 800.
- b. MC started floor hockey and will soon start pickleball. Women's soccer starts this Monday.
- c. MSR noted the hiring of water safety instructors (WSI) so she will resume teaching swimming lessons for the first 3 levels in the pond.
- d. Facilities:
 - i. NARA opens Saturday April 12th
 - ii. The staff is quickly booking up rentable areas

b) *Community Preservation Act*

a) *Current Projects*

- The Jones Field Shade Structure is moving ahead. Same cantilever design as previously planned, and it should install over the summer.
 - NARA Sports Plaza Shade Structure: Installed.
 - Dog Park: no news
- b) New CPA requests: Disc Golf Design & Installation: Passed town meeting May 05th; award letters will be ready for review May 26 by CPC. MSR noted at town meeting she needed to address questions that perhaps should be addressed for the next town meeting. MSR was concerned about the confusion regarding CPA funding sources and usage restrictions (e.g., it is not for sidewalks). CPA funding sources do not use the town's general fund.

II. New/Other Business

4. Recreation Volunteer of the Year Award

Peter McLean received the award at this meeting It will be officially presented at the July 4th celebration at NARA Park.

5. Summer Season

- a) Hiring: MSR completed lifeguard hiring (this is the first time in 15 years that it was completed before the season starts). Five hires were eligible for sign-on bonus of \$250. All fifteen are eligible for \$350 if they stay the full season (ending 08/22). MSR is still hiring camp counselors for the June 23rd camp start date.
- b) NARA Set-up: Park Stewards are in place and readiness activities are underway.
- c) Camps Setup: Directors: one new and one returning. Work underway remotely for now.
- d) Waterfront Setup: MSR noted they do not have a Waterfront Director (oversight of lifeguards), and she may need to fill in. NARA officially opens Memorial Day Weekend Saturday. Equipment will be set up soon. The boats are in the water. NARA water was evaluated this week.

6. Additional Business

- ST motioned to adjourn with JW seconding. Meeting adjourned with a unanimous vote at 3:47 PM.

Upcoming Recreation Commission Meetings

Date	Time	Location
June	No Meeting	
July 2, 2025	3:00 PM	Acton Recreation Center