



Town of Acton

Recreation Commission

Minutes

ROOM 126
ACTON TOWN HALL

DATE: December 6, 2016

ATTENDEES	Present were Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner, Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Mr. Tom Heinlein, Commission Chair, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator, and Mr. John Eppling, Citizen.
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TOPIC: MODEL AIRPLANE POLICY

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman distributed edits from Town Counsel to the proposed model airplane policy for the Commissioners and Mr. Eppling to review. Grammatical corrections were made. Mr. Will asked whether there should be a minimum flying age. He also requested clarification of the time range during when aircraft can be flown, and that vehicles be added to spatial restrictions. Mr. Eppling recommended no specific minimum age provided the child is accompanied by an experienced adult. It was decided to allow model aircraft to fly up to 30 minutes after sunset. Mr. Heinlein expressed concern over proximity of the School Street Field to Route 2 as a potential hazard. It was decided to add that all aircraft must keep a safe distance from the surrounding roads.
ACTION ITEM	Ms. Fochtman will forward changes from the Recreation Commission to Town Counsel for review before submitting the final document to the Board of Selectmen.

CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	November 1, 2016 minutes
ACTION ITEM	November 1, 2016 minutes accepted as amended, 4-0.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2016

DISCUSSION	No action items were noted.
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TOPIC: DOG PARK DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported attending the Board of Selectmen December 5th meeting where she conveyed that the Recreation Department has been working with Acton resident, Ms. Betsy Kristl, for several months on possible construction of a dog park for Acton. Ms. Fochtman noted that a separate citizen group is working on this project independently. The Board of Selectmen decided that a Dog Park Committee needs to be formed. Selectman Franny Osman will help the Committee to organize its goals. The Committee will then need to submit a proposal to the Board of Selectmen outlining the characteristics of a desirable location and other needs. Mr. Will had visited the Chelmsford dog park and showed the Commissioners a video.
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TOPIC: NARA MASTER PLAN

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported that the document is ready for final edits and invited the
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	Commissioners to review it. Ms. Gerolamo offered to receive a copy for review. Ms. Fochtman will present the completed NARA Master Plan to the Board of Selectmen in January 2017.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rail Trails – The Rail Trail bridge over Route 2A is now complete. Some paving work was done for the Assabet River Rail Trail. b) NARA Sports Pavilion - The Recreation Department has been meeting with the Office of Michael Rosenfeld to develop construction plans for the Sports Pavilion. The Miracle League wants a double-sided ramp leading to the path between the two modular buildings. It is high priority for them to have one accessible ramp that everyone uses, rather than adding both a ramp and steps. Ms. Gerhardt added that the Acton Woman's Club will make a generous donation of \$1,000 to the project. c) Morrison Farm – Ms. Fochtman put in a CPA application, for the third consecutive year, to add a well for the Community Garden at Morrison Farm. Gardeners renting plots there are in strong support. The amount requested for this project is \$31,000. d) T.J. O'Grady Skate Park – The Recreation Department application for a matching fund grant through MassDevelopment was rejected with comments that Acton is an affluent community. The Recreation Department is now working with Patronicity to launch an online fundraising platform. The Department needs to raise \$40,000 to complete the skate plaza construction. e) Playgrounds – Ms. Rier reported that the Engineering Department is working on conceptual plans to add parking on Stow Street for Jones Field. Ms. Fochtman has submitted the draft bid documents to Town Counsel for construction of junior basketball courts at Gardner and Goward Playgrounds. f) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) – Recreation proposals were submitted to the CPC in November. Funds allocated for projects will be revealed in the New Year.
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: NONE.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.
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**Supporting and referenced documentation relating to these minutes are available on the Docushare site: <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-1985>*