



Town of Acton

Recreation Commission

Minutes

ROOM 126
ACTON TOWN HALL
7:00 PM

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2017

ATTENDEES	Present were Edward Holcomb, Commissioner, Stephen Trimble, Commissioner, Joe Will, Commissioner, Barbara Willson, Commissioner, Katie Green, Board of Selectmen Liaison, Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator, Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Office Manager, Paul Malchodi, Resident, Vivek Pradham, Resident, and Joan Gardner, Selectman.
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TOPIC: CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Paul Malchodi is one of two Acton members of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Board with extensive experience concerning rail trails generally. As public awareness of the BFRT increases, he advises being prepared to address common issues likely to arise. He shared a list of things that will need to be addressed including safety and maintenance, among others (see attachment). The Commissioners discussed the list in detail. Cathy Fochtman suggested Paul attend a Land Use Department meeting as the next step. Joe Will said that the Land Stewardship Committee would also be interested. Katie Green referenced a usage study conducted by Corey York, Director of Public Works, as an additional resource. Cathy added that Land Use has met with representatives of the Chelmsford Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Assabet River Rail Trail to obtain their input.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	October 3, 2017 minutes
ACTION ITEM	October 3, 2017 minutes accepted 4:0.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM OCTOBER 3, 2017 MINUTES

DISCUSSION	None to report.
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TOPIC: FIELD MAINTENANCE

DISCUSSION	Several athletic playing fields need maintenance. The Acton-Boxborough Youth Softball league in particular was displeased with conditions at Concord Road Field due to crabgrass. Cathy brought in Gatsby Grounds to assess Concord Road, Veteran's Field and the NARA fields, with an individual prescription for each: Concord Road has already received seed application that will germinate now or in spring; NARA will receive soil aeration and sand treatment in areas requiring enhanced drainage; and Veteran's Field will be treated for grubs and will also be-seeded. Youth leagues using these fields will be asked to contribute toward the
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	cost of this maintenance.
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TOPIC: COLLABORATING WITH SURROUNDING TOWNS

DISCUSSION	Recreation has been reaching out to cooperate with nearby towns. Bus trips are being offered with Littleton, Carlisle and Concord. The Boxborough Recreation Commission has expressed interest in sharing programs. Adaptive classes with other towns are also under discussion, possibly with Concord which has a certified recreation therapist. Melissa Rier participated in a regional planning group to offer a different adaptive program each month, but the geographical distance to these activities was prohibitive.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Rail Trails – (See Citizen's Concerns, above.)b) NARA Sports Pavilion – A crew from MCI Shirley has completed interior stripping of the two modular buildings. Cathy has a meeting scheduled with Town Counsel regarding negotiations with the Office of Michael Rosenfeld to finalize the design.c) T.J. O'Grady Skate Park – Cathy and Melissa had a telephone conference with Stantec in San Diego and its grant writer in Alaska. Funding possibilities were discussed along with an updated cost estimate to finish the Skate Park Plaza. Cathy has asked the Town of Boxborough to contribute \$20,000. Melissa has ordered a fundraising promotional banner. A request to A-B Community Education to assist funding was rejected.d) Playgrounds – Fundraising for the Jones Park renovation project has reached \$7,100. The business solicitation letter previously sent will be followed by a mailing to residents.e) Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) – A CPA request will be made to fund ADA compliant staging for the NARA Park Amphitheater. The request also includes an electronic highway message board. Location of the Picnic Pavilion restrooms is under analysis. The septic drip dispersal system is being designed.f) Rules for Drones/Model Aircraft – Nothing to report.g) Community Gardens – Melissa is getting three quotes for a well to be installed at the Morrison Farm Community Garden.h) Dog Park – Cathy met with Town Counsel regarding dog park rules and dog owner responsibility. The Dog Park Committee is formulating a survey to determine interest in a dog park among 1,600 Acton dog owners. Ed Holcomb shared a printout of dog park rules for Maynard and Chelmsford.
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION: NONE TO REPORT.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.
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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>*

ATTACHMENT TO RECREATION COMMISSION NOVEMBER 7, 2017 MINUTES

Considerations around Rail Trails after construction is complete
Paul Malchodi O7Nov, 2017

Safety

Grade Crossings

Cyclist-cyclist

Cyclist-Pedestrian

Right of way

Pedestrian

Speed limits-, yield rules and signage,

Maintenance

Light -leaves, weeds, overgrowth- trimming, sign damage- amenities wear, grass,

Heavy, tree limbs, trees, roots, wash outs,

Major—vehicle damage to infrastructure

Usage- Commuting, recreational, To snow or not to snow

Special usage requests (races! walks!)

Crime- Presence, vandalism (graffiti, signage, pumps, bathrooms) assault, reporting, lack of cell phone

Cove rage

Lighting- (commuting for winter months)

Access- many already want more- Davis Road. A few are still concerned. (Paul's tale of trail fear)

Parking- planning- anecdotal- repercussions, quid —pro- quo, Byam school, NARA, Business concerns.

Bathrooms- (Heart Pond, where else?)

Requests to open fencing, or add more

Commuting considerations

Connections- ARRT, School Campus, Acton Center, Where else- Trail as backbone