

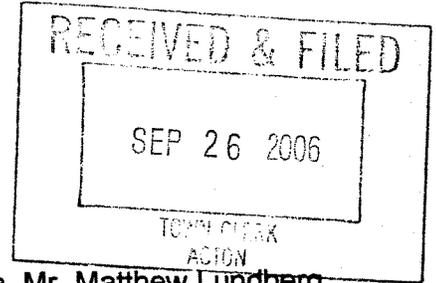


RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

July 11, 2006 @ 7 PM

Acton Town Hall, Room 126



Recreation Commission members Mr. Ron Schlegel, Ms. Michele Zaremba, Mr. Matthew Lundberg were present. Also present was Ms. Maura Haberman, Recreation Secretary. Ms. Gallagher was unable to attend.

Mr. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

Mr. Bob Lessard was present for the meeting. Mr. Matt Eckler attended to observe the meeting. Selectman Walter Foster was in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

I. CITIZENS CONCERNS

Mr. Lessard was present to express his concern about dogs at NARA Park.

II. MINUTES

Minutes for the June 6, 2006 were approved as amended.

III. NARA PARK DOG ISSUES

Mr. Lessard addressed the commission about a dog incident in which he was involved with at NARA Park and his continued observations. Mr. Lessard informed the Commission that he had sought legal advice on the current leash law. Mr. Lessard felt the current policy leaves the Town open to suit. He informed the Commission about his research from the CDC website about dog behavior, which he submitted via email to the Commission. The Commission and staff took Mr. Lessard's recommendation under advisement and recommendations would be made to the Selectman. The Recreation Commission is recommending the following Dog Policy/Leash Laws which they would like the Board of Selectmen to review which were drafted at its Tuesday, July 11, 2006 meeting.

Recommendation: Mandatory dog leash policy for all Town of Acton recreation facilities year-round: *NARA Park, School Street, Great Hill, Veterans Field, T.J. O'Grady Skate Park, Ice House Pond, Hart/McPherson, Concord Road, Morrison Farm, Acton Arboretum*

1. Recommend either a policy or law be made that dogs must be on a leash on all Town of Acton Recreation Facilities.
2. Recommend specifically NARA Park enforcement options. We need an enforcement approach for NARA; educate the staff—if the dog owner complies-good or if not they need to call the police.
3. Recommend/encourage the Selectmen and Town Counsel to explore the current leash law versus the new laws to be sure the Town is not open and vulnerable to suit.

Motion to draft a letter to and send recommendations to Board of Selectmen: 3-0

IV: SUMMER CONCERTS/EVENTS

This item was not discussed at the meeting

V. 5K/KIDS FUN RUN

This item was not discussed at the meeting

VI. RECREATION COMMISSION BROCHURE

This item was not discussed at the meeting

VII. REPORTS

No reports.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

Playgrounds: Mr. Foster recommended seeking CPC funding for two town playgrounds: Great Hill and the Library. Mr. Lundberg suggested that we also seek a playground advisory group.

Elm Street: Mr. Lundberg reported that there is some discussion on where to put the lights at Elm Street, and that the lighting project is far higher than funds provided. Mr. Foster requested that if a project is running into a problem, it needs to be brought to the Selectman and if user groups are willing to raise the funds, the Board can help with the funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57PM