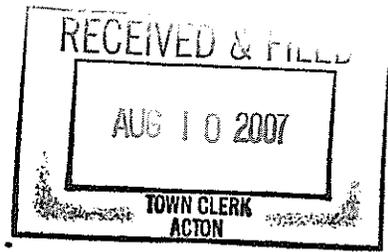




Town of Acton Recreation Commission



**MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2007**

7:00 PM

**ROOM 126
ACTON TOWN HALL**

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Mr. Ron Schlegel, Mr. Matthew Lundberg, Ms. Karen Jarsky, and Mr. Jon Benson. Mr. Frank Calore and Ms. Alison Gallagher were not present. Also present was Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director. Maura Haberman, Events Coordinator/Administrative Assistant was not present.
NOTE TAKER	Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director

Agenda topics

CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Mr. David McCormick came into the Recreation office to express a public safety concern at the T.J. O'Grady Skate Park. Ms. Fochtman reported that school field users are utilizing the parking lot when using the school field instead of parking at the school. The field users are taking up the parking lot and it has created a safety issue as they are not watching out for kids using the Skate Park.
CONCLUSIONS	Ms. Haberman contacted Community Education Director Linda Mathinos in Ms. Fochtman's absence to report the situation and Ms. Mathinos emailed the sports leagues to alert them to not park at the skate park for other sporting events. Mr. Lundberg suggested erecting a "Skate Park Parking Only – Violators May Be Ticketed or Towed" sign. Similarly to a parking situation at the Blanchard Auditorium at the Jr. High, violators could be ticketed for a time period to "cure" the issue. Mr. Schlegel noted that Boy's Lacrosse was not contacted in Ms. Mathinos email to school field user leagues.

NARA PARK DOG POLICY REVIEW

DISCUSSION	Mr. Schlegel and Ms. Jarsky attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting on June 4 for the 30-minute discussion regarding the dog leashing policy at NARA. Three citizens spoke against the policy. Mr. Robert Lessard spoke in favor of the policy, but backed down regarding the suggestion to allow some unleashed running time for dogs at NARA.
CONCLUSIONS	The Selectmen charged the Recreation Commission with researching and reporting back what other towns have done for the September Board meeting. Ms. Jarsky spoke of preliminary research she has done and in most cases, the solution is either restricted hours or areas.

CONSENT AGENDA-MINUTES, MAY 1, 2007

	The Minutes of May 1, 2007 were approved as amended, 4-0.
PLAYGROUND DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported that there is the opportunity to replace an old structure at Goward Playground with possible year-end funds that were earmarked for playground maintenance, totaling \$15,000.
CONCLUSIONS	The Recreation Commission endorsed exploring options for replacing an aging structure.

RECREATION VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman reported that an award is planned to honor the Recreation Volunteer of the Year at the Town's 4th of July event.
------------	---

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman briefly reported upcoming events: Golf Tournament, which has been rescheduled for September 9, Liberty Big Band, and T.J. O'Grady Skate Park 1-Year Opening
CONCLUSIONS	Recreation Commissioners will assist with many of the events and brief details were discussed.

REPORTS

Morrison Farm Plan: No Report
CPC: Since Mr. Lundberg is retiring from the Recreation Commission, a new representative from the Recreation Commission needs to be chosen.
School St.: No Report
Elm Street Lights: Ms. Fochtman announced that the Recreation Dept. applied for a Special Permit from the Planning Board to override the height restriction for sports lighting. The hearing is scheduled for July 10, 2007.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman discussed the Transportation Action Committee's July 14 th Forum. The committee invited a Recreation representative to participate. Ms. Alison Gallagher plans to attend as a panelist. The Commission discussed the need for shuttle service for recreational uses.
CONCLUSIONS	Shuttle service is not big recreation need. It may be useful for those without a car to have access to recreational areas such as NARA, proposed rail trail, and a Main St. drop-off to the Acton Arboretum. It would be good if a shuttle alleviates parking issues, but doubtful it would have a significant effect.
DISCUSSION	Ms Fochtman recommends moving the next Recreation meeting from July 10 to July 12, so as not to conflict with the Elm St. Planning Board Meeting. Mr. Lundberg was thanked by Mr. Schlegel and the meeting participants for his time of service on the Recreation Commission, as he is retiring from the Commission.
	The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.