



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

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TOWN CLERK
ACTON

MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

7:00 PM
Called to order: 7:10 PM

ROOM 121
ACTON TOWN HALL

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

Agenda topics

CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bee Complaints at NARA Park: A lot of bees and bee stings b. NARA Park Bathrooms: Plumbing Problems c. Dog Complaints at Great Hill: Ms. Fochtman has been receiving complaints about dogs at Great Hill from field users. Dogs are out of control and interfering with activities and digging holes which creating a safety issue.
CONCLUSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ms. Fochtman reported that Bee Busters went to NARA and inspected the site and found that bee issues could be greatly diminished with covered trash barrels, hosing down eating areas, and treating the bathhouse building. Some nests were removed at the amphitheatre area. b. Ms. Fochtman reported that there are problems with toilet pressure and could be a possible crushed pipe. Plumbers, Board of Health and Building Department are currently working on the situation. c. The Recreation Commission would like to have signage put in place stating: "Children play here. Please clean up after your dog." Along with this recommendation, the Recreation Commission would like to put a letter about dog ownership responsibility with each dog license renewal sent by the Town Clerk's office. Ms. Fochtman reported that dog bags are supplied at the Great Hill field. Possible dog park locations were discussed including the landfill area—Transfer Station off Rt. 2. Mr. Schlegel also reported that when dog issues were discussed about a new leash policy for NARA, the Commission also discussed considering not only NARA but all Town fields. <p>RECOMMENDATION TO BOS: Mr. Schlegel motioned to recommend that additional signage be placed at Great Hill and School Street fields "Children play here, please clean up after your dog" and to recommend a small dog responsibility notice be issued with each dog license renewal. Recommendation passed, 4-0</p>

CONSENT AGENDA

	The Minutes of August 7, 2007 were approved as amended, 4-0
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OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman opened the discussion with a handout from the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Recreation Commission had discussed the old and new recommendations for input into the section: Improvement Recreational Opportunities.
CONCLUSION	<p>Ms. Fochtman will report the following Recreation Commission's input for Improve Recreational Opportunities at Open Space and Recreation Plan meeting Friday, September 07, 2007</p> <p>1. Playground facilities be made up-to-date, safe and accessible. 2. Enhance the quality of Acton's athletic fields through improved maintenance techniques. 3. Provide additional athletic fields to meet the needs of the town's growing population. 4. Ensure handicapped accessibility is available for recreation activities (e.g. trails, picnicking, spectating at athletic fields, water-based recreation and camping) at both recreational and conversation areas. 5. Enhance possibilities for hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, boating and fishing on conservation lands. Expand public outreach to better inform the public of our available passive recreation opportunities.</p>

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RECREATION EVENTS

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Acton Day, Sept. 15 b. Movie Nights c. Beach Party follow-up
CONCLUSION	Ms. Haberman gave a brief summary of the upcoming events and volunteer needs. A wrap-up on the well-attended Beach Party was given.

REPORTS

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Elm Street: Ms. Fochtman reported that the new field lights are now up and running. b) Morrison Farm Master Plan: No report c) CPC: Mr. Schlegel expressed his interest in representing the Recreation Commission on the CPC. <p>MOTION: A motion was made that Mr. Schlegel represent the Recreation Commission on the CPC, approved: Motion passed, 4-0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) School Street: Ms. Fochtman reported there is a lack of irrigation at the fields. Efforts are moving forward on the lease renewal. Ms. Fochman reported meeting with UMASS Intern Turf's Program Director, Mary Owen who together surveyed School Street, Concord Road, Great Hill and NARA Park. Recommendations given by Ms. Owen were to aerate the fields, add compost during growing season, and overseed. e) Playgrounds: Ms. Fochtman plans to seek a quote for playground equipment for Goward and Elm Street Playgrounds. f) Open Space and Recreation: Ms. Fochtman will be meeting on Friday with Open Space and Recreation Committee on Friday, September 7, 2007
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CAFY Safe Home Programs Enrichment: CAFY promotes avoiding risky behavior. b. Other Business/Discussion
CONCLUSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Recreation Commission motioned to support the endorsement of the Safe Homes Program, 4-0. b. No other business was discussed.
	The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.