



# Town of Acton Recreation Commission

13

**MINUTES -**  
**DATE: APRIL 15, 2009**

**7:00 PM**

**ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL**

**ATTENDEES**

Recreation Commission members present were Mr. Ron Schlegel, Ms. Karen Jarsky, Mr. Frank Calore and Ms. Kim Bodnar. Also present was Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Cheryl Getsick, Secretary Note taker: Cheryl Getsick

**AGENDA TOPICS**

**Meeting called to order at: 7:00 PM**

**Citizens Concerns:**

**DISCUSSION**

Resident Ms. Diane Warner left Ms. Fochtman a phone message regarding the Goward playground. Noted within the message were broken tabletops, exposed tree roots, lack of mulch materials. There are ongoing maintenance issues at the Goward playground.

Ms. Maya Spies is a member of the "Friends of Dogs Committee". Ms. Spies presented a letter to Ms. Fochtman which proposed that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) create a Friends of Dogs Committee. Ms. Spies made note of the leashing regulation at NARA Park and was concerned public consideration was not involved in the decision. Ms. Fochtman explained to Ms. Spies that the BOS relied on the Town of Acton Recreation Commission for their recommendations when considering the needs at NARA Park. Ms. Spies would like to see the proposed Friends of Dogs Committee serve as an educational resource and advise the BOS on non-urgent dog related issues.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Ms. Fochtman advised Ms. Warner that the issues she listed were in the process of being addressed by the Natural Resources grounds crew and that mulch was being ordered and an ABRHS Senior Class Team was being assigned to spread the mulch at the playground on May 1, 2009.

Ms. Fochtman reviewed Ms. Spies proposal letter and returned it annotated with her comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**DISCUSSION**

March 3, 2009 minutes

**CONCLUSIONS**

March 3, 2009 minutes were accepted as amended, 4-0

**TOPIC: NARA Staffing Updates**

**DISCUSSION**

Ms. Fochtman has been interviewing many candidates and offers will be made next week. There are approximately twelve vacant positions. The Onsite Director position as well as the Waterfront Director position needs to be filled as well. An advertisement was placed last week for the two positions. April 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for responses.

Ms. Fochtman provided a comparison of NARA Youth 2009 vs. NARA Youth 2008 enrollment. The figures include tuition, pre and post care. The deadline for registering for a particular week is the Wednesday before the upcoming week. Mr. Schlegel noted that people are uncertain about their situations for the summer. Ms. Bodnar questioned in terms of dollar amount what was the total percentage for last year vs. current. Ms. Fochtman noted approximately a quarter of the amount. Ms. Fochtman commented there is a difference this year because public school will remain in session during what would normally be the first session. Mr. Calore asked about salaries and if they are intact. Ms. Fochtman noted that some of them are being reduced.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Ms. Fochtman noted that Recreation has placed advertisements for the NARA Youth Summer Program in the Acton Beacon and Action Unlimited to be published in Acton and surrounding towns.

**TOPIC: 2009 SENIOR WORKDAY**

**DISCUSSION**

Acton Boxborough Regional High School Senior Workday is scheduled for May 1, 2009. There are three (3) locations with approximately ten (10) people: Goward Playground, NARA Park and T.J. O'Grady. There is approximately \$3K available to purchase the necessary mulch for the playgrounds. Ms. Fochtman stated 110 cubic yards would be delivered and split between Goward and NARA Park. Ms. Fochtman is seeking quotes for additional site work to be done at Goward playground to replace rotting timbers that contain pea stone mulch and restore the stone dust on the entry path and around the bench. Recreation will obtain quotes from an outside contractor to work that as a project to complete by year end which is June 30, 2009. The likely source of funding will be from Natural Resources if town approval is received.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Ms. Fochtman will provide a public notice to the Beacon regarding the closure of the two playgrounds on May 1, 2009.

has also created some permanent gardens along the side. Creation of an orchard for Ms. Pam Resor is underway by an eagle scout who is performing this as his project. There will be eight (8) fruit trees.

**c) CPC**

All projects were passed at the Town Meeting

**d) NARA Improvements** –A changing room / storage room is designed and includes a sidewalk leading up to the ticket/snackbar booth. Construction of the building structure will begin soon.

**e) School Street**

Recreation has been going around about how to move forward in placing an irrigation system at School Street. There is investigation as to whether a well can be installed into the field side of School Street or go over to the corn field. Due to regulations, nobody can put a private well on the fields we are leasing. This has been established by the Board of Health. Mr. Calore asked if this would be a full sprinkler system. Ms. Fochtman stated yes. The other option is running a water cannon by a nearby stream, or to hook into the Town of Acton water which is limited by restrictions. Recreation can not improve the field unless there is water.

**f) Open Space and Recreation Plan** This is at a standstill. The survey was performed by the Ashton's; unfortunately they are no longer available to continue to working on it. Mr. Tom Tidman has allocated some time on a weekly basis to work on this. There is a lot of research to be done.

**g) Playground Update**

Ms. Fochtman is planning to provide a report on Town playgrounds to the BOS on April 27, 2009. Some of the projects which she would like to request immediate upgrades for are the Goward playground and replacement of the Jones Field net protecting the playground. Ms. Bodnar suggested possibly having a fund raiser if the projects are not approved. Ms. Fochtman noted codes have changed since the original installation of posts at Goward. The Elm Street playground was declared outdated years ago, in 2002. Ms. Fochtman would like to have the list of projects prioritized before the BOS meeting so that the Recreation Commissioners are able to review prior to submission. Ms. Bodnar asked if the parks are sprayed for ticks; Ms. Fochtman stated the town opts not to do this as the parks are surrounded by wetlands.

**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

**DISCUSSION**

Nothing to report

**MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:**

8:45 PM