

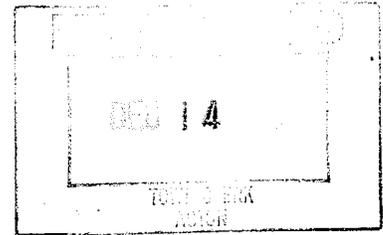


# FYI

## Acton Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2009



#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Karen Jarsky called regular meeting of the Acton Recreation Commission to order at 7:03 PM on November 3, 2009 in Room 126, Acton Town Hall.

#### **II. ATTENDEES**

The following persons were present: Karen Jarsky, Chair, Frank Calore, Kim Bodnar, co-Chair, Selectman Michael Gowing, Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Maura Haberman, Recreation Event Coordinator/Admin. Assistant

#### **III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion to Approve October 6, 2009 Minutes as amended, 3-0.

#### **IV. CITIZEN CONCERNS**

- a) Arboretum Dog Issue Citizen Concern: Ms. Fochtman reported that there was a complaint of a nuisance dog at the Acton Arboretum. The Arboretum is not in Recreation's jurisdiction and is overseen by Conservation; however, she noted that this report stated that the dog officer walks NARA Park daily with his wife and at the same time patrols the area. If necessary, the dog officer will issue a summons to repeat violators. Mr. Calore reported 90% of dogs are on a leash when he is at NARA Park. The Arboretum complaint requested more dog signage.
- b) School Street Soccer Dog Incident: Reported to Ms. Fochtman via email from Nancy Settle-Murphy, two leashed dogs had a fight resulting in a dog injury. It was noted that the aggressor dog was involved in another incident just prior to this one. This incident was reported to the Acton and Boxborough dog officers. The soccer parent who reported this incident would like to see a regulation that dogs not be permitted at any parks during field use. By order of the Dog Officer, the vicious dog in these two attacks must now be muzzled when out. Ms. Fochtman reported that the dog officer is often consulted on these incidents and handled this particular issue.
- c) Goward Playground Concerns: Ms. Fochtman reported on her recent follow-up for Mr. Leo's concerns, a citizen who attended the last Recreation Commission meeting regarding the condition of the Goward Playground. She is seeking a quote for replacement equipment from the playground manufacturer Goric. An alternative high school program known as "MAPS" is interested in work opportunities and Ms. Fochtman would like to see if they would be interested in helping with this project. Ms. Jarsky inquired about community groups working on playgrounds and about equipment safety installation issues. Ms. Fochtman reported that she is CPSI Certified (Certified Playground Safety Inspector). She will update Mr. Leo on these items once she has more feedback.
- d) NARA Park Playground Fence: Ms. Fochtman reported she received an estimate for \$17,000 to replace the existing post and rail NARA playground fence with chain link fencing.
- e) **Other Concerns**  
Mr. Calore reported that a school bus was parked in the Skate Park, possibly for a soccer game, or an outside organization may have come in to use the Skate Park.

Chinese Language School on a Chinese Cultural Day next summer in addition to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sri Lankan Day. Concerts planned for 2010 include classical, children's, jazz, big band, country/bluegrass and more. It was also noted that July 4<sup>th</sup> concert and fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 3 (with Big Band Compaq Band) and that Acton Day will be on Sunday, September 12 (with United States Air Force Band of Liberty Big Band). The Recreation Department will begin its fundraising efforts over the next couple of weeks for 2010 summer concerts. It was reported that the response from businesses donations last summer for the theme "Tribute to the Sixties" summer concert series went very well. Ms. Haberman mentioned the possibility of a 50/50 raffle at each concert to help cover the expenditures of running these events. This was favorably received and will be investigated. The Recreation Commission approved this lineup of events for 2010.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Haberman will inquire about 50/50's and Ms. Fochtman will inquire about the Georgina Whitney grant.

#### **VIII. RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms. Jarsky will do the first draft of the Annual Town Report.

#### **IX. T.J. O'GRADY SKATE PARK**

Ms. Fochtman met with both the Chief of Police and the Town Manager regarding the increase in vandalism and action to take for those doing the destruction. Ms. Fochtman reported that the officers felt they didn't have the power to enforce the rules due to previous guidelines that were in place. The Town Manager gave permission for Natural Resources (Ms. Fochtman, Mr. Tom Tidman or Mr. Shawn O'Malley) to approve Trespass Notices if a progressive series of warnings by police officers are not heeded.

#### **X. FEE RECOMMENDATIONS 2010**

Ms. Fochtman will analyze departmental costs and revenue and report to the Commission at the December meeting. The Commission will consider fee restructuring and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

#### **XI. REPORTS**

- a) *Elm Street Update:* No report
- b) *Morrison Farm Update:* Ms. Fochtman reported that more concrete figures for renovating the property will be received soon from the architect. She has discussed applying for CPC funding for the house with Mr. Tidman, Natural Resources Director. The Recreation Commission would like to see Recreation relocate to the Morrison Property.
- c) *CPC:* Previously discussed in meeting.
- d) *School Street:* Ms. Fochtman reported that the Manager informed her that negotiations for a multi-year lease are progressing.
- e) *Playground Update:* Previously discussed
- f) *Open Space and Recreation Plan:* No report

**ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Fochtman will check with the Town Manager on School Street status.

#### **XII. NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

*NARA Park Field Damage:* Ms. Fochtman reported major field damage at NARA was created by USA Rugby when field conditions were too wet. Mr. Stan Tasker, permit holder, agreed to the rules and regulations including the weather policy as a condition of permit and will be asked for the funding to fix widely damaged areas. Ms. Fochtman is getting quotes for rehab and ABYS wants to know which approach Recreation will take for this major repair. Ms. Fochtman will be seeking the funds from Rugby to pay for these repairs. Natural Resources Crew Chief, Mr. Shawn O'Malley, had informed Ms. Fochtman that he would not like to see Rugby return in the future. ABYS has cancelled games and practices at NARA for the remainder of the season.

*Canoe Locks:* Mr. Calore reported that he noticed that the canoes were all stacked but not locked up at NARA. He would like to see them locked up with a cable.