



Town of Acton
Recreation Commission

Minutes

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2015

ATTENDEES	Present were Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Recreation Commission Chair, Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner, Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Katie Green, Selectman, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Mary Lou Repucci, Recreation Secretary. Also present was citizen Mr. Thomas Heinlein. Absent was Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator.
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TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	Nothing to report.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	September 1, 2015 minutes
ACTION ITEM	September 1, 2015 minutes accepted as amended, 4-0.

TOPIC: ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 MINUTES

DISCUSSION	None.
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TOPIC: FEE SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR APPROVAL

DISCUSSION	Discussion of proposed fee changes was deferred to the November 2015 Recreation Commission meeting.
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TOPIC: NARA MASTER PLAN SURVEY

DISCUSSION	Ms. Fochtman presented a summary of the 414 responses to the NARA Master Plan Survey (see summary attached). She will also email a spreadsheet with the Survey comments to the Commissioners. Many expressed the desire to keep the Park natural with only minor enhancements. Concerns included the cleanliness of NARA Pond, restroom facilities, availability of shade and the influx of visitors from other towns creating a negative atmosphere. The next step is to incorporate conclusions drawn from the Survey into the NARA Master Plan. The NARA Master Plan goals will be aligned with The Town of Acton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2014 – 2021 (“OSRP”). The status of the NARA Master Plan was reviewed. A copy of the Master Plan will be given to the Community Preservation Committee.
ACTION ITEM	Commissioners will review the NARA Master Plan comments. Copies of the OSRP will be provided to Recreation Commissioners and to Mr. Heinlein.

REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<p>a) NARA Comfort Station – Ms. Fochtman met with the owner of a modular house on Rex Lane that may be donated to NARA Park along with two similar houses, the next proposed level of infrastructure for NARA Park and part of the NARA Master Plan. Costs of moving the building(s) are being assessed. Mr. Will suggested including a nature center as part of the project. Ms. Gerhardt asked to see the sketch for the modular houses which she will pick up at the Recreation Department office.</p> <p>b) Morrison Farm – Ms. Green reported that needed repairs to the farm house would exceed anticipated costs and that alternative restoration options are being weighed, such as Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Fochtman reported a Morrison Farm Community Garden water bill of \$900 due to seasonal drought. Mr. Will said the water bill could be eliminated if Morrison Farm had its own</p>
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	<p>well. Ms. Fochtman also said that a leak in the North Acton Community Garden hydrant resulted in a \$2,100 water bill and that the hydration system has been shut down for the season. The Acton Arboretum will be getting its own well to address a dysfunctional irrigation system.</p> <p>c) T.J. O'Grady – Ms. Fochtman is checking with the Skatepark expansion designer for an updated cost estimate. The project will be put out to bid in late October. Work will begin in June 2016 to avoid parking lot conflicts with the adjacent lower field. She has also been in touch with the Town of Boxborough Community Preservation Committee regarding funding for the Skatepark expansion.</p> <p>d) Playgrounds – Ms. Fochtman reported that Ms. Rier met with two parents interested in refurbishing the Jones Field Playground. A subsequent meeting is scheduled to present a plan from O'Brien & Sons utilizing Landscape Structures equipment. Ms. Fochtman also reported that junior high school volunteers will clean up the T.J. O'Grady Skatepark and will transport mulch to the NARA playground. Ms. Gerolamo asked about the status of a cricket league that had approached the Recreation Department but the School Street Field lease does not easily permit building the structure needed for that sport. The Recreation Department has not heard back from the Charles River Radio Controllers to follow up their request presented at the September 1, 2015 Recreation Commission meeting, although they did obtain a permit to fly model airplanes at the School Street Field..</p> <p>e) Community Preservation Committee – Mr. Will reported that a public hearing on September 10 had no attendees. Mr. Doug Halley made a presentation on Trail Through Time.</p>
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

Ms. Fochtman reviewed the capital items to be requested at the upcoming Town of Acton department head budget meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:	Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.
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**Supporting and referenced documentation relating to these minutes are available on the Docushare site; <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-1985>*