

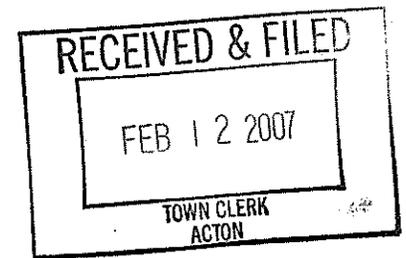
RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Date: January 2, 2007

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Acton Town Hall, Room 126



Recreation commission members Mr. Ron Schlegel, Ms. Alison Gallagher and Mr. Matthew Lundberg were present. Also present were Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director and Ms. Maura Haberman, Event Coordinator/Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM
Selectmen Walter Foster and Mr. Bill Mullen attended the meeting.

I. CITIZENS CONCERNS

Ms. Gallagher wanted to follow-up on last month's citizen concern regarding dog issues, along with prior concerns about dog issues and where the Board of Selectmen stand at this point. Mr. Foster reported that the Board of Selectmen has had two hearings on a new leash policy/law and concerns were raised from both sides. It is viewed that there is a 50/50 citizen support for a lease policy. Town counsel advice is being sought regarding the leash law issue, and the Selectmen have requested recommendations at the staff level. Mr. Lundberg would like to see a full NARA Leash Policy year-round. Ms. Fochtman has also received citizen concerns from the abutters regarding dog issues at Great Hill, and reported that other Towns are facing the same dog issues with their Parks.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes for the December 5, 2006 meeting were accepted as amended.

III. ACTON TEEN REPERTORY THEATRE

A flyer was distributed to the Commission with the information for the all new recreation teen theatre group for its production of Bye, Bye, Birdie, announcing performances on Friday evening, January 26 and Saturday evening, January 27, 2007 at the Conant School.

IV. FIELD USE SPRING-SUMMER MEETING

Ms. Fochtman reported that the field use meeting with town leagues is scheduled for Monday, January 29 at 7:00 PM at the Public Safety Building. Any Recreation Commission members who can attend were requested to if possible.

V. 2007 PROPOSED EVENTS SCHEDULE

A detail of proposed events for FY08 was presented by Ms. Fochtman and Ms. Haberman. The breakdown included special events, summer concerts, July 4th and Acton Day. Projected expenses and revenue were briefly reviewed as a summery detail was given to Commission members.

VI. WINTERFEST 2007

Ms. Fochtman reported that Winterfest which is scheduled for Saturday, February 3 from 4-8 PM at NARA Park. Sponsorships have been going well to fund the event. There are some volunteers, but more will be needed to help with activities.

VII. REPORT ITEMS

- A. Morrison Farm: Ms. Gallagher reported that parking is still an issue with Morrison. If a field does come on line, a suggestion of scattering times between leagues games should be done to allow parking lot to clear prior to new inflow for next game.
- B. CPC: Mr. Lundberg reported that there are no more applications, and to inquire about piggybacking the Elm Street lights with the High School lights application.
- C. Elm Street: Ms. Fochtman reported the Recreation Department is still awaiting a firm quote from Maricore on the cost of lighting replacement. Mr. Dean Charter, Municipal Properties, has been working to help get the quote moved quicker. Mr. Foster reported that the Elm Street light project is a top priority and the Board of Selectmen is committed to this project. Mr. Foster reported that they would like to see this project move forward within the next funding cycle as \$70,000 has already

been appropriated to this project, and, it would be a big disappointment to not have this move forward. Ms. Fochtman reported that the Recreation Department is working on seeking alternative funding. Mr. Schlegel suggested if the golf tournament were to go forward, that leagues would support it if they knew that the funds would go to a specific project, i.e. Elm Street Lights. Mr. Foster suggested that seeking a contractor to work on the lighting project at the high school and Elm Street lights simultaneously could yield a discount on the overall cost of both projects. Ms. Fochtman will inquire with Mike Coppolino and/or Sanjay Khosla who helped to put together the school lighting project and/or the school lighting contractor.

- D. **School Street:** Mr. Foster reported that the School Street Lease Agreement has not yet been executed. There are issues with parking, safety and environmental concerns. He reported that the Department of Corrections had a changeover with new personnel which has caused a slow down in the renewal process. Special legislation may be needed to secure and protect this lease. The Board of Selectmen is committed to this project as funds have already been approved.
- E. **NARA Youth Summer Program:** No report at this time.
- F. **NARA Beach Update:** No report at this time.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **NARA Master Plan:** Mr. Foster informed the Commission that there were some concerns about the existing CPA proposal and it has been put on hold until a later date as it is non-specific in the current form and premature at this time.

Mr. Mullen proposed that 14-acres of Town owned land on the north side of NARA could be used for active recreation. A recommendation was made that a site and grade plan be done by a landscape architect for approximately \$10,000 to replace the current CPA application submitted for a NARA Master Plan with a cost of \$50,000. This plan could feed into the Open Space and Recreation Plan. At the current time, the 14 acres are being used by the Acton Highway Department. Access roads and parking for the upper fields would need to be worked out and Mr. Mullen suggested that a possible access road be made through the Town Forest to Nagog Park Drive. Mr. Mullen would like to have the Recreation Commission help drive this plan forward. Mr. Lundberg proposed to the Commission that the CPC proposal for the study on the 14 acres be in two sections—one for a grade and site plan, and the other for water quality. He would like the Health Department to prepare a water quality section of the proposal with issues addressed and fiscal needs stated.

MOTION:

The Recreation Commission withdraws support for existing CPC proposal due to non-specificity.
Motion passed 3-0

MOTION:

The Recreation Commission supports a two piece recommendation to support a new replacement CPC application for NARA improvement program to develop a 14 acre town owned parcel on the north side.

1. \$10,000 funding for a grade and site development plan by a landscape architect.
2. New water quality plan TBD by the Health Department with funding TBD.

Motion passed 3-0

B. **Playground and Special Events Subcommittee**

Ms. Fochtman discussed her plans for putting together a playground subcommittee and special events subcommittee. The playground group would focus on playground improvements and needs, and special events would assist in various aspects of planning and organizing special events such as Acton Day, Winterfest, Earth Day and other special events.

The Recreation Commission doesn't want to have subcommittees, but would prefer if the volunteers for these special groups would become Associate Recreation Commission members. Both, Mr. Schlegel and Mr. Lundberg recommended that Ms. Fochtman discuss her plans with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Tidman as to how these groups could be formed.

C. **Recreation Commissioners**

Mr. Lundberg reported that he has two possible candidates who are interested in become Recreation Commission members, Mr. John Benson and Mr. Jim McCoy. Mr. Lundberg will have them fill out the applications to submit, and talk with Mr. Foster to see about moving these along quicker than previous past applications which were very not timely.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.