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Acton Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Room 121
Acton Town Hall
March 9, 2010

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

I. Call to Order

Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, called meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following attendees were present: Ms. Karen Jarsky, Chair, Ms. Kim Bodnar, co-Chair, Mr. Frank Calore, Commissioner, Ms. Elizabeth Payne, Commissioner, Mr. Michael Gowing, Selectman, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Maura Haberman, Recreation Event Coordinator/Admin. Asst., Guest Mr. Matt Condon, President of Old Gold Rugby was in attendance for Agenda Item VIII.

II. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Motion to Approve January 5, 2010 Minutes by Ms. Jarsky. Minutes approved as amended, Motion passes 4-0

III. Citizen Concerns

- a) **Field Availability for Lacrosse:** Ms. Fochtman reported that Ms. Sue Cotter came to the Department to express her concern regarding uncertainty for field assignments for A-B Youth Lacrosse as they await Acton-Boxborough Youth Soccer scheduling. Lacrosse wants to get their league schedules put in place, and is unable to do so without field assignments. Ms. Fochtman reported she is unable to designate space due to field repairs at both NARA and School Street, and is awaiting soccer's finalized schedule. In past seasons, Lacrosse has been using School Street Extension fields for their practices and informed Recreation they do not want the School Street Extension fields, due to concerns of potential injuries from current field conditions. New fields they are requesting have been used by AB Youth Soccer over many years and will take coordination with ABYS to work out movement of assignments. AB Youth Lacrosse games are held on the school campus and only practice on town fields. Ms. Jarsky asked why not tell soccer they can't use the field? Ms. Fochtman informed the Commission that she has received a lot of resistance from soccer about lacrosse wear on fields, and they cannot be repaired in the same playing season. Soccer will not repair damages caused by Lacrosse during their short season. Soccer does contribute to field maintenance with Nobel Landscaping. Ms. Fochtman reported that AB Youth Lacrosse is willing to pay for field repairs. Mr. Gowing commented that the field damage at School Street is not the solely responsibility of ABYB or ABYL, but is caused by continued use which doesn't permit the field to rest.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Gowing recommended Ms. Fochtman set up a meeting with ABYS and ABYL leaders to work out a plan together.

IV. Recreation Spring/Summer Program

Ms. Fochtman reported that the 2010 Spring Summer Program Booklet has been delivered to all homes and businesses in Acton & Boxborough, and is receiving a favorable response. NARA Beach Membership and NARA Youth Summer Camp fees did not increase this year. The program offers multiple sports clinics including soccer, lacrosse, flag ball, and birding. Additional classes include indoor and outdoor tennis run by All Seasons Tennis, marital arts and special young teen classes like Duct Tape Madness and Fleece Blanket Night. A variety of bus trips, special events and concerts are also within the program.

Ms. Haberman reported that our Acton IT Website Designer, Ms. Mason, has been working on the Recreation Department page and expects it to be uploaded this week. The site will reflect the same information as contained in the program booklet.

Due to overcrowded classes at the Senior Center, Ms. Fleming, Director COA, asked Ms. Fochtman if a special flyer can be made highlighting programs seniors may want to sign up for that Recreation is offering. This new flyer is now at the COA building.

The program includes a special order page for 275th merchandise where proceeds will directly help fund the 275th Celebration event. Mr. Gowing reported that Boxborough sells merchandise each year at Fifer's Day and it works out well.

Mr. Gowing inquired when online registration will begin. Ms. Fochtman reported that Peak Software and a new server have been received and anticipates online registration to begin this spring.

Ms. Bodnar reported that she read an article that the obesity rate in Acton is one of the lowest in Metrowest Boston.

VIII. **REPORTS**

- a) **Elm Street Update:** Mr. Gowing reported that he spoke with Attorney Walter Foster, a former Acton Selectman, and found that most of the issues that created the Elm Street injunction, have been addressed. The new lights do not pollute and users are well-mannered. It was recommended that it would be best to get a handshake agreement to save court costs, and Town use of power on its citizens. From the original injunction, only two of the neighbors still reside in the area. Just one of these two would like the injunction to continue. Mr. Gowing will continue to work on this issue.
- b) **Morrison Farm Update:** Mr. Gowing reported that architectural firm Kelleher Architects has finalized reuse options. After Town Meeting the Board of Selectmen will have a televised meeting about various use opportunities including: sports fields, open space, gardening, and historic preservation.
- c) **CPC:** Mr. Gowing reported that CPC is looking to acquire agricultural property in South Acton owned by the Caouette family.
- d) **School Street:** Ms. Fochtman reported that she is meeting with the Water District later this week to discuss well use and water restrictions. Ms. Fochtman has been discussing with Mr. Chalmers, Farm Supervisor at MCI Concord, School Street improvements and repair including soil testing, affordable fertilizing options, and potential use of water cannons for irrigation.
- e) **Playground Update:** Ms. Fochtman followed up with Goric (playground equipment manufacturer) for replacement parts and cap posts for the Goward Playground. She is also looking to replace netting at Jones field this spring.
- f) **Open Space and Recreation Plan:** No report
- g) **NARA Picnic Pavilion Update:** Ms. Fochtman reported an initial meeting has taken place with the designer, Kaffee Kang, and the Picnic Pavilion Committee (Tom Tidman, Dean Charter, Cathy Fochtman, Maura Haberman). Ideas for design work included timber frame structure with metal roof that can serve as a facility for a large group outing or multiple smaller ones at the same time. Products discussed included eco friendly materials, concrete pad, electrical, and water. The next meeting scheduled with the Ms. Kang is March 23.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:** No new business was reported.

X. **MS. JARSKY ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:38 PM**

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010, ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

Minutes taken by: Maura Haberman, Event Coordinator/Administrative Assistant