



## Town of Acton Recreation Commission

Minutes

ROOM 46, ACTON TOWN HALL

DATE: February 9, 2016

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Present were Ms. Carol Gerolamo, Commissioner, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner, Mr. Tom Heinlein, Commissioner, Ms. Katie Green, Selectman, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, and Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator.
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### TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	A citizen wrote to the Recreation Department asking if there had been any discussion about adding pickleball courts to Acton. Pickleball is a paddle sport played like tennis or table tennis on a reduced size tennis court with a lowered net. The citizen said there's a group of neighbors who play regularly but have to drive at least 30 minutes to the nearest courts. She asked if extra lines could be painted in at the Elm Street Courts for pickleball. The Recreation Department is looking into accommodating this request.
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### CONSENT AGENDA

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	January 5, 2016 minutes
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	January 5, 2016 minutes accepted as amended, 4-0.

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### ACTION ITEM REVIEW FROM JANUARY 5, 2016: TODDLER SWING AT ELM STREET PLAYGROUND

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Ms. Fochtman stated that the Natural Resources crew will swap a bucket swing from Goward Playground to Elm Street Playground to meet the needs of the users.
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### TOPIC: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT STUDY COMMITTEE

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Community Preservation Act ("CPA") Study Committee has been in discussion about changing the percentage of taxes that go toward CPA funding. Their proposal is to raise the tax surcharge from 1.5% to 3%. This increase would rate Acton as highest in CPA funding in Massachusetts. If this raise is approved by the Town, the money would provide more opportunities to Open Space, Recreation, Affordable Housing, and Historic preservation projects. This raise would be important for Recreation because CPA is the only Acton source for funding large recreation projects. Ms. Fochtman explained that many recreation projects proposed at Town budget meetings are turned down. Proposals that rank high enough for funding consideration are referred for CPA funding rather than to Town general fund appropriations. Ms. Gerolamo moved that the Recreation Commissioners support the CPA Study Committee's recommendation that the CPA surcharge be raised from 1.5% to 3%. The motion was supported by a 4-0 vote by the Commissioners.
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### TOPIC: NARA MASTER PLAN

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Using the NARA Master Plan survey results, Recreation and Natural Resources staff put together a NARA Master Plan book containing historical information about the park, photographs of the Park's amenities and events, environmental information, survey results, and a timetable on when the Recreation Department estimates it can implement amenities requested by the public through the survey.
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**TOPIC: WINTER CARNIVAL**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Ms. Fochtman reported a great community turn-out with good weather. Ms. Rier added that all parking lots were maxed out at the beginning of the event. There was a range of activities for all ages including an Acton Minutemen encampment, dance party at the stage, fire spinner, sledding, and more!
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**REPORTS:**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Rail Trails – Nothing new to report.</li><li>b) NARA Sports Pavilion – The Board of Selectmen will consider acceptance of two modular buildings as gifts at an upcoming meeting, to be donated to build the new Sports Pavilion at the NARA Upper Fields.</li><li>c) Morrison Farm – As stated at past Recreation Commission meetings, Habitat for Humanity was looking at buying the Morrison Farm house and converting it into affordable housing. The Morrison Farm Committee recently met and voted against selling any of the land because it would then become private property within the public land. This could cause additional issues such as finding a new way to get to the Morrison Farm Community Gardens that doesn't interfere with the private home owner's driveway. The Committee also voted to tear the house down. Mr. Will made a motion for the Recreation Commission to recommend that the land not be sold to a private entity and the Commissioners unanimously voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.</li><li>d) T.J. O'Grady Skate Park – Ms. Fochtman stated that she's waiting for the low-bidder of the skate bowl project to file additional paperwork with the commonwealth due to his company being an out-of-state contractor and having to follow all of the regulations to make him eligible to construct the bowl in Massachusetts.</li><li>e) Playgrounds – Nothing new to report.</li><li>f) Community Preservation Committee – (See above.)</li></ul>
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**NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:** None to report.

<b>MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:</b>	Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.
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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>*