



RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes

December 8, 2021

7:00PM

Remote Zoom Meeting

Present: Nancy Corcoran, Commissioner; Hema Santhanakrishnan, Commissioner; Steve Trimble, Chair; Joe Will, Commissioner; Melissa Rier, Recreation Director

Absent: Christopher Hardy, Commissioner

Also Present: Michele Ellicks, resident

I. Regular Business

1. Review of November Minutes

Minutes as amended were accepted. Motion by Mr. Will, seconded by Ms. Santhanakrishnan, passed unanimously, 4-0.

2. Resident Concerns

- a. Michele Ellicks joined the meeting to observe the Commission in consideration of participating.
- b. Skate Park Lights -- Interest has been expressed by community members for lighting; a petition has been started. Melissa Rier has reached out to Acton Police for comment. Stakeholder input suggests lights should extinguish at 9:00PM. Melissa is also researching a possible solar lighting option and pricing. Joe suggested: 1) checking with neighbors; 2) ensuring shadows won't cause safety concerns in the bowl and other depressions; and, 3) can the lighting be connected to tennis courts?
- c. Not on agenda (per Town Manager, John Mangiaratti) -- ABYB received a racism complaint citing a coach who never mentions certain populations. John would like the Commission to consider a non-racism contract with the leagues, with violation resulting in loss of field access. Melissa will send out a "Field Use Policy," with comments to be sent directly to her. (This topic will be added to the January 2022 agenda.) Joe suggested we look to other organizations for wording (e.g., Community Education), or maybe ask John Mangiaratti for language.

3. Reports:

- a) *Fields and Facilities: Nothing to report. No overall field maintenance is scheduled this fall due to availability. The McPherson baseball field by Conant School was redone.*

Joe noted a minor edit required on the approved rental fee schedule reviewed at an earlier meeting: Elm Street Non-profit was left in (one is a better deal than another).

b) Rail Trails –

- *DPW is in the process of adjusting the monitoring system (contact: Corey York, DPW director).*
- *\$7,200 has been added for an informational kiosk at East Acton Green. Shawn O’Malley the Cemetery Superintendent also oversees parks. BFRT should be considered a public park. Melissa doesn’t view BFRT as her purview, other than NARA special interest.*

c) Events – Nothing is scheduled for the remainder of 2021. Recreation’s next event is the February Winter Carnival on the first Saturday in February.

d) Dog Park/Senior Park: Steve was requested to meet with Dean Charter (Select Board) and will update the Commission. There is an effort to develop a Master Plan for three projects at the Main Street locations.

d) Community Preservation Committee

- i. *NARA Sports Pavilion -- The contractors are starting (Ludlow, MA). An additional \$60k was used from the Recreation revolving fund to close the funding gap.*
- ii. *Jones Playground Renovation: The brick installation remains but it has been difficult finding a vendor to do the masonry work.*
- iii. *Gardner Playground Renovation -- This is taking up most of the department’s focus. Melissa stated that it is an amazing plan. John has signed the equipment purchase order for installation in late spring and AARP Covid funding contributed \$400k. The playground equipment will likely go in first followed by paving.*
- iv. *New CPA Applications -- All 2022 requests are in. Scheduling will take place at the December 14, 2021 meeting.*

II. New/Special Business

4. Open Space and Recreation Plan -- This is the other big focus item for Melissa along with Gardner Playground. Melissa is the group leader and timeline generator. The Town’s goals are being completed by reviewing and updating prior goals. Melissa noted that the Commissioners should have received a letter from John regarding this document. She will send the goals offline to the Commissioners for review and comment about goals specific to Recreation, such as addition of a second NARA softball field and installation of lighting.

5. Upcoming Programs -- December School Vacation Program is accepting registrations for up to twenty children with two staff members. Other winter programs, such as indoor soccer, are available for registration now.

6. A plaque recognizing Liam Lemke as Recreation Student Volunteer of the Year award will be presented at Winter Carnival.

Joe items

1. Hart Field anything new? no
2. Gift mentioned at the latest Select Board from a Sudbury resident gifting a bench at Great Hill.
3. Considerable flooding in town.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Will, seconded by Ms. Santhanakrishnan. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Upcoming Recreation Commission Meetings

Date	Time	Location
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January 4, 2022	7:00 PM	Zoom
February 1, 2022	7:00 PM	Zoom
May 1, 2022	7:00 PM	Zoom

Additional materials can be found here <http://actonma.gov>

The listed agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can and a means by which we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow advance notice. Send an e-mail to: Manager@actonma.gov or call Town Manager's Office (978)929-6611.

For more information about the Recreation Commission contact recreation@actonma.gov or
978-929-6640 x0