



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall - Room 209
7:00 p.m. –Monday, January 27, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Don Fishman, Andrew Stern, Michael Clarke, Jack Neville, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:02 pm

1. Meeting Minutes

- December 16, 2013- Approved 8-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Camp Fair, January 26 at NNHS was well attended. Camp registration opens Wednesday January 29.
- Attended the CPC meeting for the Farlow Park project and the Newton Highlands Project. Kudos to Carol Schein, P & R Open Space Coordinator and Keith Jones and his group for all the work done on these projects.
- Ice Skating at the Auburndale Cove was open this weekend over 500 people skated over the weekend.
- Continue to facilitate Marathon meetings.
- February 12, 2014 the field renovation plan will be rolled out to the leagues, etc. Halloran field will be the first field taken out of play for renovation.
- Possible acquisition of 91 Court St., Verizon lot is in discussion. The site would become a pocket park.
- There is a meeting this week with interested parties to discuss the possible relocation, day and time change of the Friday, summer Farmers Market.
- EBT/SNAP is now being accepted at the Farmers Market.
- Stephanie Lapham is continuing to work on several playground builds.
- The Community Garden fee has increased from \$45.00 per season to \$50.00 per season.
- Before the February 24th meeting the Commission will be honoring Fran Rice who has retired from the Commission.

3. Bullough's Pond Association Proposal – Public Hearing

- At the December meeting, Laura R. Studen, Kathleen Grieser and Marilyn K. Campbell presented a proposal from the Bullough's Pond Association (BPA) to repurpose the hut on Bullough's Pond and create a pavilion like space. The proposal is low maintenance, green and environmentally friendly for both passive and active recreation. Chairman Magni asked for public comment on the proposal.
- Jonathan Adler, Berkshire Rd. commented it is ok to tear down the building. The notion of repurposing the building is a horrible idea; this will bring more people to the area along with trash and traffic. Do not install pavers on the site plant grass seed.
- Ellen Summer, Walnut St., Ms. Summer is a previous BPA member and opposes this proposal. All of Newton has access to the pond. The building has been a hangout for kids, during the winter kids are on the ice and they throw items out onto the ice. The area is a safety concern for smaller children. There is also concern for the eco system.
- Melvin Berger, 251 Mill St., supports the proposal. "Betsy's Bench" is a popular spot for people walking around the pond. It will be an improvement to remove the building and use the space. Kids will still come to the area no matter what is there. An open area invites people.

- Bill Leitch, 69 Dexter Rd., Mr. Leitch's wife Betsy started the BPA. The proposal will bring additional people to the area. Mr. Leitch is a Newton at Home member. A pavilion will be helpful and a benefit to the neighborhood.
- Duane Hillis, 499 Winchester St., structures should not be built on open space. The area should go back to nature, no pavilion should be built.
- Mrs. Huntington, 20 Berkshire Rd., a previous principal commented kids do like to hide at the building and she supports the proposal with a blend of nature.
- Dick Lockwood, Bullough's Park, Bullough's Pond is a gem; all different ages should be able to enjoy.
- Kathleen Grieser, 258 Mill St. addresses the concerns regarding traffic and vandalism. Ms. Grieser does not believe the pavilion will bring extra people. The pavilion will provide an open view with shady space and increase utility and accessibility.
- Chairman closed the public comment portion of the hearing and opened the discussion to Commission members.
- Mr. Stern asked if there are any rules & regulations for Bullough's Pond similar to the 1920 Crystal Lake rules and regulations. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there are no rules & regulations to his knowledge.
- Chairman Magni asked about ice skating on the pond. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there are state guidelines the city follows to open safe outdoor skating areas on the ponds and at the cove. A vehicle must be able to get out onto the ice to plane the ice. Bullough's pond does not meet the requirements at this time, and the pond is halfway open, skate guards would be required. Mr. Stern commented this is another reason rules and regulations are needed. Chairman Magni asked if the bathrooms are open at the cove when the ice skating is open. Commissioner DeRubeis replied yes, but people do not use the building, so taking the building down at Bullough's would not affect ice skating.
- Mr. Dunker asked if BPA is funding the proposal. Ms. Studen replied yes. Ms. Charkoudian asked if BPA would take care of maintenance and any graffiti, Ms. Studen replied yes the proposal is designed for minimal maintenance.
- Chairman Magni asked if BPA thought about letting the site go back to nature. Ms. Studen replied yes, but there is a lot of support for the repurposing proposal.
- Mr. Tucker asked how the fundraising is going. Ms. Studen replied this is the 350th year anniversary at Bullough's Pond and they plan on fundraising privately by 2015. If the building is demolished and the footprint remains who is responsible for funding. Ms. Studen replied BPA is not funding the removal of the building.
- Mr. Stern asked if a Park Ranger has been hired. Commissioner DeRubeis replied not yet but he is working on it. Mr. Stern agrees the building is an eyesore and the re-design could encourage bad behavior, which is why rules and regulations are needed along with enforcement. Mr. Stern recommended seeing the plans and specs before approving. Rules and regulations would be required also.
- Mr. Clarke stated he has submitted waterway regulations to the Law Department for approval. The waterway regulations have been approved by this Commission and the Conservation Commission.
- Mr. Stern made the motion to approve the proposal with the conditions of seeing the plans and specs and establishing rules and regulations. Chairman Magni stated rules and regulations should not be a condition of approval. The petitioners should not be punished for the Commission's lack of rules and regulations.
- Mr. Johnson commented if the building is knocked down it is less likely to attract kids. Rules and regulations should not impact this proposal.
- Mr. Tucker commented the attendees of tonight's meeting are equally divided about the proposal and may not represent all interested parties. It will take a year or more to raise the funds. Ms. Studen stated they cannot raise the funds without the Commission's approval.
- Mr. Stern amended the motion:

Mr. Stern made the motion to approve the concept of the proposal on condition of final plans and specs, approval of adequacy of funding and use of funding for the project. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.

4. 70 Crescent St. - Alexandra Ananth, Chief Planner

- Ms. Ananth submitted to the P & R Commission members prior to the meeting with an update on the 70 Crescent St. re-use process in preparation for Board of Aldermen Re-use meeting tomorrow night regarding the property at 70 Crescent Street. Memo available upon request.
- Mr. Stern asked who will be advocating for the Commissions wishes of keeping the area open space. Mr. Dunker commented the area is currently not open space. Mr. Stern commented the facility portion was deeded to the Commission. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the facility was deeded to the P & R Department. Mr. Stern asked what rights the Commission has over the property.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated Alderman Albright requested a cost estimate to turn the area into open space. Weston & Sampson Architects submitted an estimate between \$1.8 and \$2 million dollars which does not include mitigation.
- Mr. Tucker attended the community meeting at the Myrtle Street church. The people were divided into five teams. All five teams disregarded the housing option for the property and chose to keep the area open space along with improving access of the Crescent Street end of the property. Parks & Recreation should endorse open space not housing. Mr. Stern commented the CPC would take that into account looking at a proposal.
- A neighborhood representative requested to speak to the Commission. The neighborhood needs a sponsor to bring a proposal to the CPC by February 1, 2014. The neighbors are a committed group and this process has brought the neighbors together. The core concerns are a need for green space and a buffer to the Mass Pike and to meet diverse recreation needs.
- Chairman Magni asked how the process works. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the proposal is co-sponsored by a city entity and requires alternate funding. Maintenance is an issue, currently maintenance for this area is not in our budget. February 1, 2014 is aggressive to have a proposal ready for CPC.
- Mr. Tucker suggested the maintenance be covered under the adopt-a-space program by the neighborhood.
- Mr. Duane Hillis commented the Newton Community Farm went through the CPC process and is a great success. Mr. Hillis encourages the Commission to get behind this project.
- Ms. Aksan commented without the Commission's support this is a dead end.
- Alderman Jay Harney stated the Myrtle Street Church is known to be an advocate for housing and they support the neighborhood proposal for open space. The idea of having community gardens in the space is a fabulous idea. Open space never gets a fair shake.
- Mr. Tucker commented at the community meeting there were concerns about existing development projects in the neighborhood.

Mr. Tucker made the motion authorizing the Parks & Recreation Department sponsorship with the neighbors support to move forward with the CPC proposal. Ms. Charkoudian seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

5. Nahanton Park – Update – Ouida Young, Associate City Solicitor (attachments)

- Bid Documents are out. Some of the area in Nahanton Park has been taped off with cones and tape. The goal is for construction to begin in April. There has been a slight revision to the site plan regarding the location of the structure that houses the firemen.
- Awaiting the language for the conservation restriction and approval from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA).
- The tool house will be vacated and any hazardous material removed before the temporary fire station is open. Mr. Tucker asked if the structure will be empty. Ms. Young stated once the temporary fire station is removed the building will be emptied. Mr. Tucker asked if the fire department will have access to the building. Commissioner DeRubeis commented the fire department does not have a use for the building. A sub-committee should meet to discuss the use of the building.
- Mr. Clarke commented the drawings show the new plans extend over the Alms House site. Ms. Young stated there is no digging planned at the site, the structure will sit on an asphalt pad.

- Chairman Magni stated it sounds like the process is being driven at the state level and asked if this part of the process is mostly paperwork or will there be a hearing. Ms. Young stated there will be a hearing and it will be important to have a representative attend the meeting.

6. Angier School - Ouida Young, Associate City Solicitor

- The first early site package will be completed when school ends in June.
- Plans are in process for the new playground and the relocation of the existing playground to Carr School. Access to the playground from Beacon Street is required. Commissioner DeRubeis confirmed Stephanie Lapham, Recreation Manager is working on the Angier School playground projects.
- Ms. Young commented Massachusetts Historical Society requires an archeologist on site while the playground is being removed.
- Ms. Young will continue to update the Commission as the project progresses.

7. New Business

- Waterway Rules & Regulations
 - Mr. Stern asked Mr. Clarke if the waterway proposal deals with docks and abutters rights at Crystal Lake. Mr. Clarke responded the proposal is motivation to bring all the rules together for all bodies of water in Newton. Mr. Stern agrees the 1920's rules and regulations need to be updated, what is the action plan. Mr. Clarke replied the Law Department has to take the proposal seriously and the State will need to be involved. Mr. Stern asked Commissioner DeRubeis if the department has any suggestions to update the rules and regulations. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the proposal should be reviewed by the Law Department and a sub-committee should meet, the committee should include a staff member from the department and commission representatives. Mr. Fishman commented the Law Department comes before the commission and asks for help, the Commission should ask for their help. Commissioner DeRubeis suggested the chairman write a letter from the Commission to the Law Department requesting they review the waterway proposal. Alderman Sangiolo stated she will sponsor the proposal. All members present came to the consensus for the chairman to write the letter to the Law Department.
- Commission Elections

*Mr. Stern made the motion nominating Arthur Magni as chairman and Richard Tucker as vice-chairman.
Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.*

Meeting Adjourned 9:05 pm
Respectfully Submitted,
Robin McLaughlin

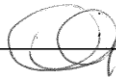
**CITY OF NEWTON
LAW DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 24, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Ouida C.M. Young, Associate City Solicitor

RE: Update on Art. 97 Home Rule Petition for Temporary Use of
Entrance to Nahanton Park for Fire Station #10



I have asked for the opportunity to update the Parks and Recreation Commission on the status of the Art. 97 Home Rule petition which seeks permission to temporarily use the Winchester Street entrance to Nahanton Park for Fire Station #10.

As you know, the Board of Aldermen authorized the Mayor to seek Art. 97 approval and to execute the MOU with the Commission. Shortly after January 1st, this office contacted Newton's legislative representatives and asked for assistance in filing an Art. 97 Home Rule petition. Senator Creem has agreed to sponsor the petition, and we have provided her office with backup material including a copy of the Parks and Recreation Commission's minutes which included the vote to allow temporary use of the Park, as well as a copy of the executed MOU required by that vote. The petition has not yet been assigned a bill number, which I expect to happen shortly.

The actual language for the Art. 97 Home Rule petition was reviewed and approved by the EOEEA in late December, 2013. I've included a copy of that draft language with this memorandum. Please note that while the draft Home Rule petition has a maximum duration for the temporary fire station use of 24 months, Public Buildings does not believe that the full 24 months will be required, but I've included a margin of safety. EOEEA will also be issuing a letter allowing the temporary use of the Park as required by the conditions of the two Urban Self-Help grants given to the City to help acquire and improve the Park.

Finally, the Project Architect for reconstruction of Fire Station #10 has developed a specification and site plan for installation of temporary modular structures housing the fire equipment and firefighters. That site plan is slightly different than the hand-drawn site plan shown to the Commission last summer. I have attached the new site plan as well as the original plan for your information.

The last step of developing the required statutory conservation restriction remains to be done, but I should start that drafting process within the next several weeks.

I will attend the Commission's January 27, 2014, meeting to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Thank you.

Cc: Robert Rooney, COO
Josh Morse, Public Buildings Commissioner

December 17, 2013

An Act authorizing the temporary use of certain park lands in the city of Newton

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to authorize forthwith the temporary change of use of certain park lands in the city of Newton, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

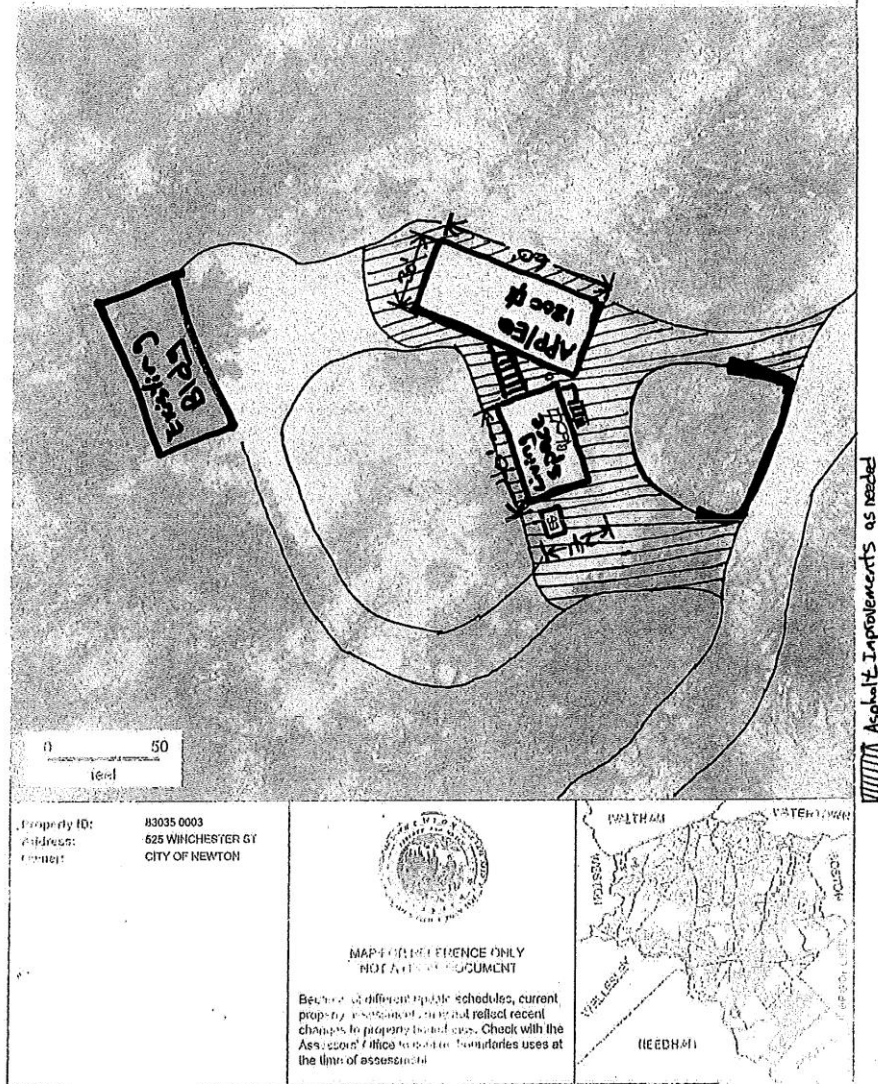
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. The city of Newton may use approximately 8,500 square feet of land immediately adjacent to the entrance to Nahanton Park located at 525 Winchester Street to relocate Fire Station #10 on a temporary basis during the demolition and reconstruction of Fire Station #10's building located at 755 Dedham Street, Newton. The temporary fire station shall consist of a modular structure to house firefighters and equipment; a temporary structure to house the fire truck and related equipment; as well as circulation and parking areas serving the temporary fire station. The temporary use of park land shall not exceed a period of 24 months from the date the modular structures are installed, and all fire station related structures and circulation and parking areas shall be removed and the park restored in accordance with the terms of a certain Memorandum of Agreement executed by the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission, the Newton Board of Aldermen, and the Mayor of Newton.

Section 2. In consideration for and as a condition of the temporary change of use authorized in section 1, the city of Newton, acting through its Parks and Recreation Commission, shall negotiate with the Newton Conservators the terms of a permanent conservation restriction meeting the requirements of sections 32 and 33 of chapter 184 of the General Laws, which restriction shall cover the entire Nahanton Park consisting of approximately 57 acres, and being described as assessor's Parcels 830350004A and 830350003. The city of Newton shall execute and record the permanent conservation restriction following its approval by all necessary parties.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

City of Newton





Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall - Room 209
7:00 p.m. –Monday, February 24, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andrew Stern, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:01 pm

1. Meeting Minutes

- January 27, 2014 - Approved 7-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- February Vacation Camps-well attended
- Budget Process- Additional \$200,000 in R-M Public Property, \$100,000 in Forestry for Tree Planting
- The letter from Chairman Magni to the Law Dept. regarding review of the draft waterways rules & regulations was sent.
- Wednesday, February 12th-unveiled the Turf Program to leagues, Athletic Director's – presented a Power point presentation showing the fields that will be part of the program and when they will be taken out of play.
- Wednesday, January 29th-on-line Camp Registrations-(see attachment)
- Thursday, March 6th-Farmers Market relocation meeting (Friday market only) Potential site is Ed. Center-Saturday 10AM to 2PM
- Kennard Park discussions -March 7th-Carolyn Kraft, Jennifer Steele, Josh Morse, Carol Schein, Carol Stapleton
- Crystal Lake Working Group Meeting, March 11
- Crescent St. Re-use committee meeting- Tues, 7pm, Room 222
- Forestry has been on stand-by for snow storms, this limits the number of tree removals they are able to do.
- Maintenance has been very busy with the snow.

3. Newton Centre Rally- Larry Koplan, Anna Kolodner- Christians & Jews Unite for Israel

- Laurence D. Koplan, of 1131 Commonwealth Ave, and Ana Kolodner both representatives of the non-profit organization Christians and Jews Unite for Israel, Inc. (CJUI) request the use of Newton Centre Green on Sunday, June 1, 2014 to hold its annual Jerusalem Day Festival. CJUI is planning on having games, contests, face painting, dancing and singing to Israeli music. CJUI will also invite several speakers to attend the event.
- Ms. Kolodner stated the event has previously been held in Brookline, and now they are looking for a larger space. The event is a celebratory, low key fair, multi-cultural, multi-denomination and multi-generational festival. The intent is to bring the community together.
- Mr. Clarke asked how many people are anticipated to attend. Ms. Kolodner stated maybe 500 people. Commissioner DeRubeis responded according to the Special Permit policy this event would be considered a medium impact event.
- Mr. Kastner inquired if the group has coordinated with the police regarding the march to city hall. Ms. Kolodner replied yes.
- Ms. Kolodner asked if food vendors would be allowed to participate in the event. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the group would have to contact the Health Department.
- Mr. Koplan stated the group is sensitive to the merchants and neighbors and would like to come back next year. Mr. Dunker commented the Newton Highlands merchants did not like the competition of vendors at other events, and recommended CJUI reach out to the merchants around the Newton Centre Green. Commissioner DeRubeis suggested the group

contact the Director of Cultural Affairs, Linda Plaut. Ms. Plaut holds events in this area and would be a great resource.

Mr. Johnson made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Clarke seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- Mr. Stern commented if the message is upbeat, the event would be ok, if the message is anti any other group there may be an issue. Mr. Kastner commented the Commission has to look at the group as any other group applying for a permit, unless there is strong evidence otherwise. Chairman Magni stated there is nothing in the Commissions by-laws that prohibits the group from submitting an application. Mr. Stern asked if the Commission should create a policy distinguishing between events for political views and events for awareness. Mr. Clarke commented the public hearing may bring out the issues if there are any.

4. New Business

✓ Crescent Street Property

- Mr. Stern requested a discussion on Crescent Street re-use and the letter (attached) submitted to the Board of Aldermen Real Property Re-use Committee regarding the property at 70 Crescent Street.
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented the Real Property Re-use committee would like to make a decision on this property, possibly tomorrow night. The Chairperson of the Committee asked for the department's priorities, hence the letter. Commissioner DeRubeis met with the neighborhood group and explained the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) process along with the CPC Program Manager, Alice Ingerson. Commissioner DeRubeis explained his concern regarding the project and property sitting in CPC for a long time, where a developer may push the project through quicker.
- Mr. Stern stated this is a unique situation, opportunities for open space are rare and the Commission voted to keep the property open space. Mr. Stern asked how Waban Hill gets priority over Auburndale where there is hardly any open space. Is there a flow chart of funding?
- Chairman Magni asked who makes the priorities. Commissioner DeRubeis responded the CPC. Mr. Clarke stated the Commissioners letter listed the department's priorities; the Commission needs to rank their priorities.
- Mr. Stern commented there are concerns about mitigation on the property, but if you look at Millennium Park in West Roxbury, that area was probably toxic and now it is a beautiful open space.
- Mr. Kastner stated the idea here is to save money and find space for housing. Nobody on the committee (JAPG) could advocate for open space. The Crescent Street neighborhood is the most congested in the city. The Planning Dept. report is disingenuous the group never suggested open space as an option.
- Mr. Stern asked if the land with the buildings is under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commissioner DeRubeis replied no, the buildings were handed to the department as an operation center.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated his letter proposes housing with parameters for additional open space. The question of how many housing units would be acceptable did come up at the Re-use meeting. Mr. Stern stated a developer would need enough units to make it worth it for them.
- Chairman Magni asked the members what the goal is of the conversation.
- Mr. Stern replied this is a political issue and the reuse committee may believe the Commission agrees with Commissioner DeRubeis' letter but the Commission voted to keep the area open space.
- Mr. Clarke suggested taking the departments list and the CPC list and prioritizes the lists as a Commission. Mr. Stern stated that would be a good exercise. Mr. Clarke state the CPC would want to know.

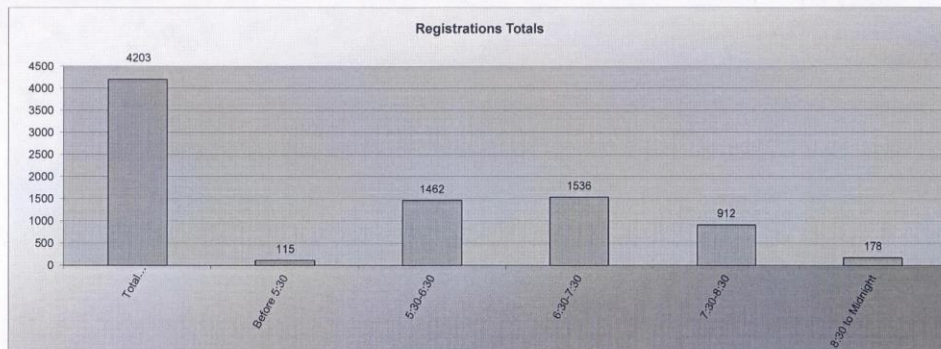
- Mr. Stern stated the neighbors should be able to make the choice. Commissioner DeRubeis stated his concern that over time if there is no movement on the project the space would become a blighted area.
- Mr. Kastner stated there needs to be a balance between housing and open space. Until we see a proposal for the area we should not allow city to relocate the playground.
- Chairman Magni asked for closing thoughts and/or action items for the Reuse Committee meeting. The members present agreed Commission members should attend the Reuse Committee meeting to remind them the Commission voted to keep the area open space and the playground will not be released until the Commission sees a unified plan for the area.
- ✓ Mr. Clarke commented he has been collecting historic pictures of the Parks & Recreation Commission and suggested if there is a light agenda in the near future the Commission may want to view the collection
- ✓ Mr. Stern stated the swim season will be here soon and the Swim at Your Own Risk issue needs to be addressed. Until the Alderman update the ordinance there is nothing that will change. Ms. Charkoudian asked what the point is of the Commission, if the decisions made, do not change anything. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Commission gave advice to the Aldermen on the changes required to the ordinance. Chairman Magni stated it is a system of checks and balance.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 pm
Respectfully Submitted,
Robin McLaughlin

Camp- On-line registration statistics

Total Registrations Before 5:30 5:30-6:30 6:30-7:30 7:30-8:30 8:30 to Midnight

Registrations 4203 115 1462 1536 912 178



Registration Totals by Camp

Camp	# Registrations	Fees	Amount Paid	Discounts	Adjustments	Amount Due	% Collected
Camp Echo Bridge	751	\$ 127,035.00	\$ 76,845.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,190.00	60.49%
Camp Echo Bridge CIT	20	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 2,415.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,535.00	48.79%
Albemarle Acres CIT	30	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 5,180.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,020.00	71.94%
Centre Acres CIT	24	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 2,035.00	\$ -	\$ 45.00	\$ 560.00	77.08%
Camp Brunen Brooke CIT	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Albemarle Acres	1009	\$ 183,935.00	\$ 82,095.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 101,840.00	44.63%
Auburndale Station	204	\$ 46,480.00	\$ 28,739.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,741.00	61.83%
Centre Acres	390	\$ 76,335.00	\$ 46,222.45	\$ -	\$ 17.55	\$ 30,095.00	60.55%
Camp Brunen Brooke	334	\$ 54,480.00	\$ 31,190.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,290.00	57.25%
T-Ville Trails	607	\$ 113,320.00	\$ 66,203.50	\$ -	\$ 22.50	\$ 47,094.00	58.42%
Echo Explorers 1	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Echo Explorers 2	8	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,305.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 295.00	88.65%
Acres in the Falls	258	\$ 44,870.00	\$ 21,080.00	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 23,770.00	46.98%
Next Stop Auburndale Station	116	\$ 23,655.00	\$ 11,040.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,615.00	46.67%
Outdoor Adventure	72	\$ 17,999.00	\$ 17,849.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	99.17%
Kid's Korner	117	\$ 33,440.00	\$ 18,595.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,875.00	55.52%
Thundercat Sports	109	\$ 21,875.00	\$ 18,971.00	\$ 2,012.50	\$ -	\$ 891.50	86.72%
Summer Vacation Burr Park	50	\$ 11,440.00	\$ 9,360.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,080.00	81.82%
Camp Extreme	122	\$ 34,040.00	\$ 31,575.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,465.00	92.76%
Summer Vacation Emerson	81	\$ 16,560.00	\$ 15,700.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 860.00	94.81%
Summer Vacation Hut	153	\$ 26,817.50	\$ 26,817.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	100.00%
		\$ 849,671.50	\$ 514,187.45	\$ 2,012.50	\$ 105.05	\$ 333,366.50	



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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TDD/TTY: (617) 796-1089
parks@newtonma.gov



ROBERT J. DERUBEIS
COMMISSIONER

February 18, 2014

Alderman Susan Albright, Chairman
Real Property Reuse
Newton Board of Aldermen
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Alderman Albright,

On Tuesday, February 11, 2014, I met with Elaine Rush Arruda and Shule Askan, proponents of the Crescent Street Open Space proposal. Also present at this meeting were Alice Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator and Carol Stapleton, Recreation Program Manager. Ms. Ingerson presented an overview of the CPC process as well as the history of the Curve Street neighborhood. Ms. Ingerson referenced the Biddy Mason Park in Los Angeles, California as a wonderful example of incorporating the historical perspective into a park setting.

The proponents' proposal consists of community gardens, an extension of the current Reverend Ford Playground, to include equipment for school age children, picnic tables and benches and increasing the parking lot of the Myrtle Baptist Church. The approximate area that this would encompass is 97,000 square feet or 2.2 acres.

As the Parks & Recreation Commissioner, I have been a proponent of open space and continue to work on the improvement of our parks and playgrounds. While I commend the proposers on their perseverance and the desire to develop open space, I cannot endorse the proposal as presented.

The following are concerns that hamper the viability of the project:

Priority: It would not be high on the current list of departmental projects. The following would take precedence;

- Newton Highlands Playground –CPC proposal stage
- Farlow Park-CPC proposal stage
- Waban Hill Reservoir-CPC pre-proposal stage
- Crystal Lake Bathhouse-CIP
- Gath Pool-CIP

Time: Newton Highlands was identified as our top priority in 2005 through a citywide inventory and assessment. In 2007, a master plan of the site was developed. This fall, we presented a CPC proposal for construction documents. It is apparent from this timeline, that even projects that occupy a place of prominence are faced with a substantial period of time from inception to completion.

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 – BETHIEL CHARKOUDIAN
WARD 2 – ARTHUR MAGNI, CHAIRMAN
WARD 3 – PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 – FRANCIS J. RICE
WARD 5 – BYRON DUNKER
WARD 6 – ANDREW STERN

WARD 7 – RICHARD TUCKER, VICE-CHAIR
WARD 8 – DONALD FISHMAN
SECRETARY-ROBIN MCCLAUGHLIN

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE,

WWW.NEWTONMA.GOV/GOV/PARKS



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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parks@newtonma.gov



ROBERT J. DERUBEIS
COMMISSIONER

Cost: Turning the entire site into open space requires additional funding to design, construct and maintain on an ongoing basis. As a department we are working toward improving the current inventory, any additional acreage increases the burden.

Environmental Assessment & Mitigation: This has been an operations center for the past 40 plus years with a number of different materials on site. Mitigation of this site is a wildcard cost that has to be taken into account.

While I believe that a green space equal to that of the current Reverend Ford Playground should be larger and more easily accessed, I feel that the most prudent avenue to reach that desired goal is to have a developer undertake the project as part of development of the entire site. The Open Space proposal could be incorporated as part of the entire proposal.

By placing it in the hands of the developer, the project will take on a more aggressive timeline and not allow the land to remain stagnant for a number of years. As part of the plan, the developer should incorporate a maintenance endowment so that we can make sure that the open space gets maintained properly. The cost of mitigation would also be a cost that would have to be incurred by the developer.

I would recommend that there be a limitation on the housing units with the intent of development to be the driver on funding the open space. By limiting the housing units and expanding the current open space at the site we have what I feel would be a tenable situation for all parties involved.

Sincerely,

Robert J. DeRubeis

cc: Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer
Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
Alexandra Ananth, Chief Planner for Current Planning
Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator
Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 – BETHEL CHARKOUDIAN
WARD 2 – ARTHUR MAGNI, CHAIRMAN
WARD 3 – PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 – FRANCIS J. RICE
WARD 5 – BYRON DUNKER
WARD 6 – ANDREW STERN

WARD 7 – RICHARD TUCKER, VICE-CHAIR
WARD 8 – DONALD FISHMAN
SECRETARY-ROBIN MCLAUGHLIN

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE,

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Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall - Room 209
7:00 p.m. –Monday, March 17, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andrew Stern, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:06 pm

Francis J. Rice recognition ceremony: Mr. Rice was honored for his service of over 40 years on the Commission. A proclamation from the Mayor and plaque from the Commission were presented to Mr. Rice's family.



Jamie Rice (son), Arthur Magni, Chairman



*Jamie Rice, Chairman Magni,
Commissioner DeRubeis, Vice-Chairman Tucker*

1. Meeting Minutes

- February 24, 2014 - Approved 8-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Kevin Clancy Basketball Tournament- successful, fun filled event this past weekend with over 30 teams participating
- Badminton Tournament at NSHS this past weekend, continues to be popular and continues to grow each year.
- Farmers Market relocation- Executive Office meeting with West Newton merchants this week.
- Kennard Park discussions with C. Kraft & other city departments. Mr. Clarke asked if the current lease is due to expire. Commissioner DeRubeis replied yes, the NPS has had one year grants and utilized the building at Kennard Park to operate the program. Mr. Clarke stated Kennard Park needs a sustainable plan. Commissioner DeRubeis agrees.
- Crystal Lake Working Group continues to meet
- OLAWG continues to meet and have been discussing possible areas at NSHS and Thompsonville Playground.
- Building issues at Hawthorne and Emerson this month. Public Buildings doing major repairs.
- Newton Serves meeting- tonight.
- Marathon Preparation
- Playground Projects continue
- Cabot Off-leash Area to be renovated starting August 1 and will be closed from August 1 through spring of 2015.
- CPA meeting for the Farlow Park project and the Newton Highlands Project this Thursday at 7pm in room 209.
- Upper Falls Greenway signs ready to be installed.
- Mayor & Department Meet Up March 30, 2:30- Hyde Center
- Budget Review with Aldermen - April 30th
- April Vacation Camps are filling up.
- Field Renovation Plan moving forward

3. Nonantum Village Day- June 1-Informational Meeting

- Nonantum Village Neighborhood Association representatives presented a proposal to hold the 3rd annual Nonantum Village Day on June 1st. The Association is requesting the use of Coletti-Magni Park.

*Ms. Charkoudian made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.
Motion passed 8-0*

4. Newton Centre Rally - Christians & Jews Unite for Israel- Public Hearing

- Laurence D. Koplan, of 1131 Commonwealth Ave, and Ana Kolodner both representatives of the non-profit organization Christians and Jews Unite for Israel, Inc. (CJUI) request the use of Newton Centre Green on Sunday, June 1, 2014 to hold its annual Jerusalem Day Festival. CJUI is planning on having games, contests, face painting, dancing and singing to Israeli music. CJUI will also invite several speakers to attend the event.
- Abutters of Newton Centre Green have been notified of this event and were given the opportunity to voice any concerns or comments at tonight's meeting. There were no abutters present.

*Ms. Charkoudian made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion.
Motion passed 8-0.*

5. Relay For Life- Informational Meeting – Sharon Stout

- The Relay for Life has taken place at Forte Park for the last 6 years. The event is an overnight event with 30-40 teams. Commissioner DeRubeis commented this has been a great event and the department endorses the event. Chairman Magni commented last year there was a complaint about the noise from an abutter on Rustic Ave. Ms. Stout stated the issue was addressed immediately.

*Mr. Johnson made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Stern seconded the motion.
Motion passed 8-0.*

6. St. Mary of Carmen Festival-Informational Meeting – Chuck Proia

- Mr. Proia commented there are no changes to the festival this year. Everyone seems happy with what's gone on last year. Chairman Magni asked Commissioner DeRubeis if there were any issues last year. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there were no issues, they do a great job.

*Mr. Stern made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.
Motion passed 8-0.*

7. Tennis Fees- Mike Lewitt

- Mr. Lewitt presented the 2014 Tennis fees, rules and regulations (attached). The only changes are: Resident Adult from \$165.00 to \$185, Non-Resident Adult from \$195.00 to \$215. Mr. Lewitt explained even with the increase these rates are well below other local tennis fees, such as Brookline.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked if seniors are given a discount. Mr. Clarke stated the issue has never been addressed. Commissioner DeRubeis commented if a senior approaches the department and requests a discount the department will work with the individual to accommodate the request. There have been no requests to date.
- Mr. Stern commented if repair and maintenance is assumed by the contractor does any of the money go to the city. Mr. Lewitt replied 25% goes to the city.
- Mr. Lewitt stated the clay courts are a gem and only a few know about and appreciate the clay courts.

*Mr. Tucker made the motion to accept the tennis fees as presented. Ms. Charkoudian seconded the motion.
Motion passed 8-0.*

8. Poetry in Edmands Park- Poetry Review- Grey Held

- Mr. Held presented the poems to be installed in Edmands Park from the Poetry in the Park Proposal, approved by the Commission at the June 17, 2013 meeting. Mr. Held is requesting approval of the poems from the Commission before installation in the park.
- Mr. Kastner asked who submitted the poems. Mr. Held stated an ad was put in magazines.
- Mr. Tucker asked what happens when the poems are damaged or covered in graffiti. Mr. Held stated the poems are separated by a varnish that protects the poems and can be cleaned if needed.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked if Mr. Held will be checking on the poems condition. Mr. held replied yes.
- Mr. Stern asked if the poets copyrighted the poems. Mr. Held replied yes the poets were asked to sign a waiver for the City.
- Mr. Harry Sanders, Friends of Edmands Park, asked who maintains the poetry in the park. Mr. Held responded there are grants and fees and Mr. Held will monitor the poetry in the park. The poems will age with the natural wear and tear of the stone pillars. If the poetry becomes unsightly, there are funds to replace the poems.
- Mr. Stern asked if the Parks & Recreation Department will handle the funds and maintenance. Commissioner DeRubeis replied, yes the funds and maintenance, graffiti etc. would be handled by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Mr. Stern made the motion to approve the poetry and recommends the Parks & Recreation Department take control of the funds and maintenance of the poetry in Edmands Park. Ms. Charkoudian seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

9. New Business

- **CIP List-**
 - Mr. Stern asked if there is an internal P & R CIP List. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the previous list was carried forward and revamped under Mayor Warren based on the risk factor.
 - Mr. Dunker asked what the risk factors are. Commissioner DeRubeis commented there are several factors, and example would be the risk factor of a school roof vs. renovation of an athletic field.
 - Mr. Stern asked what the end use of Manet Rd. will be. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the discussion has been to leave as walking trails, paths or a playground. Mr. Stern commented he understands the neighbors want to keep the area passive recreation, has there been any consideration on the best use and it is surprising it is a top priority in the city.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis stated the city does not own the property, if the property does go to the CPA, the Planning Department should lead the charge but Mr. Rooney would like P & R to lead the charge.
 - Mr. Tucker stated there is a neighborhood committee that is aware Boston College (BC) has long range real estate plans. The City can let BC have the land or leave as a reservoir which is a hazard for unsupervised recreation and it is a maintenance issue, why would the city want the land.
 - Mr. Kastner suggested requesting the state sell the land to us in better condition.
 - Mr. Tucker suggested going back to the Planning Department for a plan. Commissioner DeRubeis suggested Planning should go back to the neighbors. Mr. Stern commented this is a city project not a neighborhood project.
 - Mr. Dunker stated this project sounds like the Crescent St re-use issue, and all want one but not the other, what is the difference. Mr. Tucker stated Crescent St is not a reservoir.
 - Mr. Clarke asked if the city could take the top part and not the reservoir. Mr. Fishman commented that is not a coherent plan.

- Mr. Tucker stated the reservoir is a significant amount of land, maybe the berm could be plowed into the water. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the water study is being done now.

Mr. Fishman made the motion to recommend The Highland Playground Project and Farlow Park pond/bridge project be number 1 & 2 on the CPA list. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion.

Motion passed 8-0

- Chairman Magni asked if it is in the Commissions interest to rearrange the priorities. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Commission can certainly take a look at the list, prioritize and recommend the action to be taken.
- A sub-committee was formed to review the list including Commissioner DeRubeis, Don Fishman, and Michael Clarke.
- Mr. Dunker asked if permission is required to replace a temporary structure in a park. The Little league would like to replace an old metal building with a wooden shed. Commissioner DeRubeis replied no permission is required if the structure is temporary and is the same size and being used for the same purpose.
- Mr. Duane Hillis commented the Bullough's Pond Association called him and requested he write a letter in support of returning the land back to nature where the current building is standing.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked if the gas company has answered for the trees damaged by the gas leaks. Commissioner DeRubeis has not heard from the gas company. Mr. Dunker suggested calling the hot line daily. Eventually the issue will be fixed.

Meeting Adjourned 9:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

NEWTON CENTRE CLAY TENNIS COURTS 2014

All hours are subject to change. Permit holders reserve times:

Pre-season: May 1 – May 31

Mon. – Fri. 9:00 – Noon 3:00 – 8:00PM

Sat. & Sun. 9:00 – 1:00 3:00 – 6:00PM

Regular season: June 1 – September 1

Mon. – Fri. 9:00 – Noon 3:00 – 8:00PM

Sat. & Sun. 9:00– 1:00 3:00 – 6:00PM

Post season: September 1– October 15

Mon. – Fri. 9:00 – Noon 3:00 – 6:00PM

Sat. & Sun. 9:00– 1:00 3:00 – 6:00PM

**Closed for daily maintenance
Mon.–Fri. Noon to 3:00;
Sat & Sun. 1:00PM – 3:00PM.**

Regular maintenance times may change or additional maintenance times will be required occasionally and courts will be closed.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND CLINIC TIMES WILL BE POSTED AT THE COURTS

Pre-bookings for Clinics and special events will be posted.

NON-RESERVED COURT PLAY: is on a strict first come first serve basis. Court changeover will be on the hour except where a doubles booking produces and open court at the half hour.

SEASON PERMIT RATES

SEASON PERMIT FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Resident Adult \$165.00 (\$185)

Resident Student (under 18) \$75.00

Non-Resident Adult \$195.00 (\$215)

Non-Resident Student \$125.00

HOURLY RATES*

Resident Adult \$10.00

Resident Student (under 18) \$7.00

Non-Resident Adults \$12.00

*** Non Permit holders, if courts are available – reservations are not permitted**

**Advance Reservations for Permit Holders Only
(can reserve at the courts or phone in)**

**FOR PHONE IN COURT RESERVATIONS
(MEMBERS ONLY)
857-488-0890**

**Phone Operation Hours:
Monday-Friday 3:00pm -8:00pm
Sat/Sunday 9:00am -1:00pm & 3:00 -6:00p**

RESERVE COURT PLAY:

- ALL PLAYERS MUST PURCHASE A SEASON PERMIT OR PAY THE HOURLY FEE TO PLAY ON THE NEWTON CENTRE CLAY COURTS. Permits/applications may be obtained from the attendant at the courts during court time hours.
- PERMIT HOLDERS WHO BRING A GUEST, (NON-PERMIT HOLDER) ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE HOURLY FEE IS PAID TO ATTENDANT BEFORE STEPPING ON COURT.
- ALL PLAYERS MUST CHECK IN WITH COURT ATTENDANT PRIOR TO ENTERING THE COURTS. PERMIT AND DRIVERS LICENSE MUST BE SHOWN AT THIS TIME OR GUEST FEE MUST BE PAID.
- PERMIT HOLDERS MAY RESERVE A COURT UP TO SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE. NON PERMIT HOLDERS MAY NOT RESERVE A COURT .
- A PERMIT HOLDER MAY HAVE ONLY ONE COURT RESERVATION ON THE BOOKS AT A TIME. PERMIT HOLDERS MUST FINISH USING THAT TIME BEFORE THEY MAY BOOK ANOTHER COURT.
- A MAXIMUM OF ONE (1) HOUR MAY BE BOOKED FOR SINGLES. ONE PERMIT HOLDERS NAME IS REQUIRED TO BOOK THIS COURT. A MAXIMUM OF 1.5 HOURS MAY BE BOOKED FOR DOUBLES PLAY. TWO PERMIT HOLDERS NAMES ARE REQUIRED TO BOOK THIS COURT.
- PLAYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE A 1.5 HOUR DOUBLES BOOKING FOR SINGLES PLAY. IF ONLY 2 PLAYERS SHOW UP FOR A DOUBLES BOOKING, THEY FORFEIT THE LAST 1/2 HOUR.
- ANY PLAYER WHO INTENTIONALLY OR REPEATEDLY MAKES A 1.5 HOUR DOUBLES BOOKING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLAYING SINGLES WILL HAVE BOOKING PRIVILEGES TERMINATED WITHOUT A REFUND.
- IF AT LEAST ONE PLAYER IS NOT PRESENT AT THE START OF THE HOUR FOR WHICH A COURT IS BOOKED, COURT IS IMMEDIATELY GIVEN TO WAITING PLAYERS. BY FIVE MINUTES PAST THE HOUR TWO PLAYERS MUST BE ON THE COURT, OR BOOKING IS FORFEITED AND COURT IS GIVEN TO WAITING PLAYERS.
- ALL PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO SWEEP THE COURT AFTER USE IN A MANNER THAT IS APPROVED BY COURT ATTENDANT.
- WHEN GATES ARE LOCKED, OR WHEN NETS ARE DOWN, NO PLAY IS PERMITTED AND NO PLAYER IS ALLOWED ENTRY INTO THE COURTS.
- ALL PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A SHIRT ON THE COURTS..
- ALL PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO INTERACT WITH OTHER PLAYERS IN A COURTEOUS AND CONSIDERATE MANNER. YELLING AND USE OF PROFANITY ARE PROHIBITED.
- ALL PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO ABIDE BY ANY DECISION TAKEN OR DIRECTION GIVEN BY THE COURT MONITOR.
- IN THE LAST 45 MINUTES OF A SHIFT, IF THERE ARE NO PLAYERS ON COURT, COURTS WILL CLOSE AND MAINTENANCE WILL BEGIN. FROM THAT POINT ON NO PLAYERS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COURTS.
- I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH RULES WILL RESULT WITH IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR PLAYING PRIVILEGES.

PLEASE NOTE: APPLICATION AND PAYMENT FOR THE CLAY COURTS ARE TAKEN AT THE CLAY COURTS ONLY, DURING COURT MONITOR HOURS. PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR APPLICATION INTO THE NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT. YOU WILL RECEIVE A MEMBERSHIP BADGE AT THE TIME OF PAYMENT.



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall - Room 209
7:00 p.m. –Monday, April 28, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andrew Stern, Michael Clarke, Jack Neville, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:06 pm

1. Meeting Minutes - March 17, 2014 - Approved 8-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Commissioner DeRubeis stated April has been a busy month.
- During the Marathon the Commissioner was in the EOC (Emergency Operating Center) at the Fire Station. Mr. Johnson commented on the great job done cleaning Commonwealth Ave. after the marathon.
- Newton Serves took place yesterday. There were over 50 City wide projects. Newton Serves would not happen without the volunteers and the maintenance crew. The maintenance crew delivers mulch and tools to most of the project locations.
- Last week, April vacation camp was well attended.
- Crystal Lake Working Group continues to move forward with water quality. Signs for watershed are being ordered this week and will be installed before the swim season. Mr. Tucker asked if the signs are encouragement not enforcement. Commissioner DeRubeis replied yes.
- There is a sign ordinance being developed to tone down the number of signs posted. Alderman Johnson recommended the ordinance due to all the signs popping up around the City.
- Budget will be presented to the Alderman on Wednesday night.
- The Field renovation plan has been implemented. Turf work is being done on Halloran Football Field.
- The department is working with Ms. Charkoudian to have a Plant Exchange on June 14 at the Recreation Office.
- There was a greenhouse at the old Carr School before the building was taken over to be used as a swing school. Pat Rand requested a new location for the greenhouse and the Commissioner has allowed the greenhouse to be put up at the Recreation Office.
- There are several playground builds in process. Pierce school is being renovated this week.
- Marc Welch, Director of Forestry has gone before the Board of Alderman for an ordinance change regarding contractors and the tree removal process.

3. Nonantum Village Day- June 1-Public Hearing

- Nonantum Village Neighborhood Association is proposing to hold the 3rd annual Nonantum Village Day on June 1st. The Association is requesting the use of Coletti-Magni Park. Abutters of the area were notified of the public hearing to voice any issues, complaints, or comments regarding the event. No abutters were present.

Mr. Johnson made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

4. St. Mary of Carmen Festival-Public Hearing

- The St. Mary of Carmen Festival is scheduled July 16th-July 20th at the Joanne C. Pelligrini Memorial Playground. Abutters of the area were notified of the public hearing to voice any issues, complaints, or comments regarding the event. One e-mail was received from Mr. Antonellis of Lothrop St. Mr. Antonellis concern is with the noise level and hour of night when

breaking down the carnival the last night of the carnival. Mr. Proia commented the permit allows breakdown of the carnival until 1:00am on the last night and there is a police detail on site.

Mr. Tucker made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

5. Relay For Life- Public Hearing

- The Relay for Life has taken place at Forte Park for the last 6 years. The event is an overnight event with 30-40 teams to raise money to fight cancer. Abutters of the area were notified of the public hearing to voice any issues, complaints, or comments regarding the event. No abutters were present.

Mr. Tucker made the motion to accept the proposal as presented. Ms. Charkoudian seconded the motion.

Motion passed 8-0.

6. Waban Hill Reservoir – Update

- Commissioner DeRubeis reported he held a meeting in the Recreation Office including Vice-Chairman Tucker, Carol Schein, Katie Holmes, Planning Department, and the Waban Hill Ward Alderman. Commissioner DeRubeis explained at the meeting the P & R Commission were ok with the acquisition of the property but had questions on the use of the property. Gail Silberstein and Peter Clote, co-chairs of the Waban Hill Reservoir Acquisition proposal will attend the May 19th P & R Commission meeting to present the proposal to the Commission and answer any questions.
- Alderman Laredo commented he is strongly in favor of the acquisition of the Waban Hill Reservoir.
- Katie Holmes stated she assisted in organizing the Waban Hill working group in January 2013 and has been with the group through the entire process and she is working on the historic aspect of the site also.
- Mr. Tucker shared his thoughts on the proposal:
 - The acquisition is good for the entire city not just for Ward 7
 - Ward 7 could use recreation space
 - Safety is a huge concern
 - Low maintenance benefits the P & R Commission
 - Personally believes the area should be a multi-use recreation area
 - 60% is occupied by water, there is only 2 acres of land
 - There is a question on access. If the acquisition is for the entire city make the area inclusive
 - What is to be done with the pump house
 - The height of the berm around the water needs to be lowered for safety and usefulness.
- Chairman Magni asked what the status of the proposal is. Commissioner DeRubeis stated this is a pre-proposal. Chairman Magni asked if the City has first refusal for the property from the MWRA. Alderman Baker replied yes.
- Mr. Clarke commented it is a good idea to acquire the property but the planning is not comprehensive. There are other small open space areas in the same location, what can be done with all of these properties together. Chairman Magni stated this is an informative meeting. Mr. Clarke stated these are points for discussion.
- Mr. Clarke stated it is not good practice for the Commission to take on new space without funding. Alderman Laredo stated this parcel will be low cost maintenance.
- Mr. Stern stated the parcel should be envisioned as a city wide park, there needs to be some planning for this. No action benefits the neighbor's wishes.
- Alderman Laredo stated this is designed as a city wide asset. Mr. Stern asked if there is parking access. Mr. Dunker stated a site becomes popular, the neighbors petition for no parking signs and the signs start popping up at the site.
- Mr. Tucker commented the proposal mentions funding will be raised by other sources besides the CPC. Ms. Holmes commented there are grants available.

- Mr. Tucker asked what the next step is. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there will be a presentation at the next meeting. Chairman Magni stated there could be a public hearing in June.

7. Emerson Playground

- Commissioner DeRubeis reported the Our Common Backyards grant program is a grant program aimed at building a new playground or spray park in cities throughout the Commonwealth. Each community is eligible for up to \$200,000 in grant assistance. The Parks & Recreation Department submitted a proposal to develop the play space at Emerson Playground with a proposed cost of \$250,000.00. The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs has approved the funding of Emerson Playground through Our Common Backyards grant program. This project will design and construct a children's play area, including play structures, swings, resilient surfacing, trees, picnic tables, benches and an accessible walkway.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated the State requires the Commission accept the grant money, confirm custody of the playground and dedicate the playground as park land in order to proceed.

Mr. Tucker made the motion:

The P & R Commission accepts the Our Common Backyards grant money for Emerson Playground and requests the Board of Alderman and Mayor Warren also accept the urban grant money; the P & R Commission confirms that Emerson Playground is in the custody of the P & R Commission and Emerson Playground be dedicated as park land.

Mr. Neville seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

~~8. Bowen Playground PTO~~ Rescheduled

9. New Business

- Zervas School – Mr. Clarke commented the Zervas School is building a new school and it looks like the new building may be partially on park land at Cold Spring Park. Ouida Young, Law Department will add to her tasks of items to investigate.
- Mr. Clarke stated there are two individuals who have gone unrecognized that had a great impact on park land in Newton, Ernst Hermann and Mayor Childs. Mr. Clarke has the history of both men. Mr. Clarke would like to have a memorial for each man; one on the corner of Commonwealth Ave and Walnut St, on city hall property and the other across the street near Bullough's Pond. The spouse of the granddaughter of Mayor Childs was present and supports this recommendation. Chairman Magni mentioned the Commission has had issues with memorials on City Hall grounds. Mr. Clarke stated there is a process to follow for the memorial and would like to be added to the agenda in May for the informational part of the process.
- Mr. Tucker stated Mr. Clarke raised the issue of the Commission not take on any other land without money for maintenance. The Commission should make this a bedrock principal of the Commission.
- Off-Leash Area Working Group- the group is proposing two areas, one at Thompsonville Playground and on at Newton South High School. The group continues to work on getting citation powers for the Off-leash Specialist.
- Mr. Clarke suggested allowing people launch boats near the boathouse during the off-season.

Meeting Adjourned 8:51 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall - Room 209
7:00 p.m. –Monday, May 19, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andrew Stern, Michael Clarke, Jack Neville, Peter Kastner, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:04 pm

1. Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2014 - Approved 8-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Coaches Consortium has had the kick-off meeting last month to determine a plan to renovate the playing fields. The Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening.
- Parks & Recreation assisted in the planning of the Veterans Day parade.
- There have been a few issues with the abutters of NNHS field with balls being hit into the neighbor's yards. The issues are being addressed with the abutters.
- There was a "Picnic & Play in the Park" event scheduled at Auburndale Cove. The event was very successful and there will be others planned this summer.
- The department, along with Ms. Charkoudian, will be holding the first annual Plant Exchange at the Recreation office on June 14th, 10am-12pm.
- Playground builds are very busy. A policy is being developed regarding playground replacement.
- The Newton Highland Playground project and Farlow Park projects are moving forward.
- The 1st annual Seniors "Over 55" Prom took place at the Post 440 and it was a huge success.

3. Waban Hill Reservoir – Presentation- Waban Hill Reservoir Advisory Group

- Gail Silberstein, Co-Chair, Waban Hill Reservoir Advisory Group presented the process and content of the Waban Hill Reservoir proposal.
- Process:
 - Goal: what does the city want from the Advisory group
 - Vision: best use of property
 - January – April 2013, public meetings with comments
 - A survey was completed of the area
 - A friends group has been formed with a lot of support from the community
- Content:
 - The reservoir is has a unique topography including a body of water.
 - When you are at the reservoir you feel removed from the hustle and bustle of the city.
 - The main feature is the water, the group has suggested removing the existing fence and install a new fence and make the area handicap accessible.
 - Cost: the group has created a feasible plan through phases so this will remain a quality project.
- Chairman Magni stated the Commission needs to take an initial vote to move the project forward.
- Mr. Stern asked if the Parks & Recreation Department would be a co-sponsor for the project. Commissioner DeRubeis stated Katie Holmes from the Planning Department has done the work on the project to date. P & R may become a co-sponsor. Mr. Stern asked what the schedule is to get on the agenda for CPC and MWRA.
- Alderman Baker commented the city has first refusal to purchase the property from the MWRA. This is a special project that can be proposed to the CPC.

- Mr. Clarke stated the biggest feature is the water, there is no source feeding the water. Is there any aquatic life in the water feature? Ms. Silberstein stated there are geese in the area. Commissioner DeRubeis commented he is not sure if there is aquatic life in the reservoir. Mr. Tucker commented it could be lined to prevent foliage.
- Mr. Clarke asked how many handicap parking were proposed. Ms. Silberstein stated possibly 6 spaces.
- Mr. Tucker commented the proposal is for open space and not athletic fields. Safety around the water feature is a constant issue along with the height of the berm. How will the area be policed to make it safe?
- Ms. Silberstein commented there has been lots of discussion regarding safety. A suggestion to have a fence installed on the interior of the berm. If someone wants to climb the fence they will. The neighbors, friends group and community would police the area.

Mr. Tucker made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Stern seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

4. Bowen PTO- Thompsonville Playground- Basketball court –Jessica Brooks

- The Bowen PTO is proposing halfcourt basketball court in Thompsonville Playground.
- Bowen Elementary School is overcrowded and modular buildings are being installed. The play area currently used has drainage issues and is referred to as the “mud pit”. There is an issue getting the kids outside for recess. A comprehensive plan is being developed which includes use of the upper field (Thompsonville playground).
- The PTO was made aware of a proposal for an off-leash site in the same location. The PTO members met with the Parks & Recreation staff, Mike Cronin, NPS, NSELL and NYS representatives. The group discussed all uses of Thompsonville Playground and came up with a compromise.
- The Bowen PTO is requesting the Commission consider the needs of the school so the group can move forward with the proposal.
- Mr. Stern asked if the modulares are going on school property. Commissioner DeRubeis responded yes. Mr. Stern asked if there is room for a basketball court on school property.
- Ms. Brooks stated there is a basketball court on school property; a second half court is needed for the older children.
- Mr. Stern commented a few years ago that a lot of money was spent to correct the drainage issues. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the area was repaired but it is a low point and a heavily used area so the grass area has become compacted.
- Mr. Ken Temkin, abutter asked what the plans are to expand the school. He stated that the Bowen PTO has not spoken to the abutters. The proposed location, near the water bubbler, is a good location for the half court.
- Mr. Stern asked what the cost is and who will be paying for the half court. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the P & R Department will pay for the halfcourt, DPW will do the work and the Commissioner is not sure of the cost. Mr. Stern asked how this ranks compared to other needs of the department and will the Bowen PTO contribute to the cost?
- Mr. Clarke would like some visuals, costs, etc. for this project to better understand what is being proposed.
- Mr. Stern would like to see where the school property lines are and the P & R property lines are. He would like to see a better presentation with more information to make a good decision. The school created the problem and now the school problem becomes Parks & Recreations problem.
- Mr. Fishman agreed he is not comfortable moving to a public hearing with the information that was provided tonight.
- Chairman Magni requested the Bowen PTO come back with a detailed presentation for the Monday, June 16 P & R Commission meeting.

~~5. Ernst Herman Mayor E. O. Childs Memorial –Michael Clarke~~

- No proposal submitted. Rescheduled for next meeting.

6. New Business

- Mr. Kastner is an alternate on the Farm Commission and reported Angino Farm is doing well. They had a seedling sale this past weekend and were sold out on the first day.
- Mr. Clarke asked where the drain is located in Waban Hill Reservoir to release the water. Commissioner DeRubeis will find out.
- Commissioner DeRubeis reported there is a meeting Wednesday night with Janice Bourque and Josh Morse to discuss the Crystal Lake Bath House master plan possibly going to the CPC.
- Commissioner DeRubeis reported the sad news that the mother of Nancy Scammon, Seniors Director passed away.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall - Room 209
7:00 p.m. –Monday, June 16, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andrew Stern, Jack Neville, Peter Kastner, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Youth Awards were held in the Aldermanic Chambers at 7pm.

Meeting began at 7:50 pm

1. Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2014 - Approved 8-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Swim season has begun at Crystal Lake & Gath Pool
- Summer camps begin next week
- The department received a complaint from Forte Park about softballs being hit into neighbor's yards and causing property damage. The same issue is occurring at NNHS on Hull Street. Solutions are being looked into.
- June 14th the first Plant Exchange was held at the Recreation Office with the support of Commission member Bethel Charkoudian and resident Mary Morganti. The event was a fun day and there will be a 2nd annual Plant Exchange in 2015.
- Preparations are under way for the 4th of July celebration.
- Farmers Market begins July 1st. The Cold Spring Park Market opens July 1st. The Friday market at the Post 440 has been cancelled. A new market will open on Elm Street in West Newton on Saturday July 5th 10am-2pm.
- The field renovation program has begun. All fields will be cycled through in three years.
- Forestry Division: currently there is a pruning back-log. Over 800 trees have been identified as dangerous and the tree crews have spent the majority of their time removing the dangerous trees. Over the winter a contractual crew will be on board to assist with the back log.
- Jason Roberts, Off-Leash Recreation Specialist has been doing a great job educating park users and working with pet owners and the Animal Control Officers. We are still working with the Police to get citation powers for the Off-leash Specialist position.
- Mr. Roberts reported:
 - Off-leash permit numbers increase each year
 - The issues are continuously improving at Cold Spring Park
 - The biggest issue is at Hunnewell Park, people from Brighton and professional dog walkers are using Hunnewell Park without permits and they do not use the off-leash area, they use the entire park. Animal Control is aware of the issue.
 - Community groups are forming in each of the off-leash areas.
- This summer there is a "Vets with Pets" program scheduled in Cold Spring Park off-leash area on July 26, August 16 and September 20th. This event is co-sponsored with the Veterans Service Center.
- The installation of the Nahanton Park temporary fire station is moving forward.

3. Waban Hill Reservoir – Public Hearing

- Gail Silberstein, Co-Chair, Waban Hill Reservoir Advisory Group presented the process and content of the Waban Hill Reservoir proposal at an informational meeting for the P & R Commission on May 19th.
- Process:
 - Goal: what does the city want from the Advisory group

- Vision: best use of property
 - January – April 2013, public meetings with comments
 - A survey was completed of the area
 - A friends group has been formed with a lot of support from the community
- Content:
 - The reservoir is has a unique topography including a body of water.
 - When you are at the reservoir you feel removed from the hustle and bustle of the city.
 - The main feature is the water, the group has suggested removing the existing fence and install a new fence and make the area handicap accessible.
 - Cost: the group has created a feasible plan through phases so this will remain a quality project.
- Alderman Baker read a letter from the Waban Hill Advisory Group (WHAG) supporting:
 - Purchase of the property
 - Completion of the appraisal
 - Secure funding
 - Make the area safe for visitors
- Alderman Baker commented a possible conservation restriction could reduce the cost of the property and the Newton Conservators would hold the restriction.
- Laurie Gaverson, Chestnut Hill Association representative supports the WHAG recommendations.
- Madeline Bell, 155 Waban Hill Rd. stated she has been in attendance for the WHAG process. The area is a wonderful place with an abundance of wildlife it would be a shame not to purchase the property.
- Ann O. Koloski-Ostrow, 44 Travis Drive stated a lot of pledges have been made to help with the maintenance costs.
- Resident, 99 Woodlawn Rd. supports the proposal.
- Mr. Butter, 81 Woodlawn Rd. has spoken to many people who enjoy the reservoir and he supports the proposal.
- Linda Gillespie, 41 Woodlawn Rd stated the views are spectacular. There is a lot of excitement about this proposal. The proposal has brought the neighbors together.
- Chairman Magni closed public comment. Proposed language for the motion was submitted to Chairman Magni. Chairman Magni reviewed the proposed motion with the members. All agreed the language was fair and acceptable.
- Ms. Charkoudian referred to the Engineering evaluation report with concerns regarding the cost of maintenance and annual inspections and the statement that the dam is a high hazard dam. Additional threats to the dam are the trees growing around the perimeter and the animals burrowing near the dam.
- Alderman Baker and City Engineer John Daghljan addressed Ms. Charkoudians concerns:
 - The dam is classified as high hazard but with the current water levels the dam is a low hazard dam. The water level will be kept at the low level.
 - The last inspection in 2012 showed the dam was stable and there were no signs of leakage.
 - A fence is proposed to be installed for safety purposes.
 - Regular maintenance of the area will prevent shrubs, trees, etc from growing around the perimeter.
- Mr. Tucker stated he is in favor of the acquisition but is concerned about safety at the Waban Hill Reservoir and the Parks & Recreation Department absorbing the maintenance costs.
- Mr. Neville commented he visited the site and supports the acquisition but is also concerned about safety and maintenance costs.
- Mr. Johnson supports the acquisition but is also concerned about the maintenance costs and inspection costs, and asked where will the money come from?
- Alderman Baker replied the upfront costs will be in the acquisition and deferred to Commissioner DeRubeis regarding the Maintenance costs. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the grass cutting and tree work could be done in-house and/or contractually.

- Mr. Fishman stated this is a unique site. Mr. Fishman is a member of the Community Preservation Committee and maintenance of proposed projects has been an issue with the Committee. Mr. Fishman is surprised the neighborhood would allow the additional parking. Once the area is acquired and becomes a property for all Newton residents to enjoy people from all over could come into the area.
- Ms. Gaverson stated the report addresses parking and shows the existing parking pathway.
- Mr. Tucker asked where the proposal goes if the Commission approves it. The proposal will go the Board of Alderman and Mayor Warren.
- Mr. Stern stated he supports the acquisition but is not sure if the Commission can vote on open space. Alderman Baker commented he checked with the Law Department.

Mr. Tucker made the motion that the City of Newton acquires from the Commonwealth the Waban Hill reservoir for use as open space or passive or active recreation purposes in accordance with recently enacted enabling state legislation and the Report of the Waban Hill Reservoir Advisory Group. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.

4. Bowen PTO- Thompsonville Playground- Basketball Court –2nd Informational Meeting

- The Bowen PTO appeared before the P & R Commission for an informational meeting on May 19th. The PTO proposed a half-court basketball court in Thompsonville Playground. Bowen Elementary School is overcrowded and modular buildings are being installed. The play area currently used has drainage issues and is referred to as the “mud pit”. There is an issue getting the kids outside for recess. A comprehensive plan is being developed which includes use of the upper field (Thompsonville playground). The Commission requested the Bowen PTO come back with a detailed presentation for the Monday, June 16 P & R Commission meeting.
- Mr. Jed Shugerman, Bowen PTO representative presented a detailed drawing of the location of the proposed half-court basketball court.
- Mr. Tucker asked if the location would interfere with sports leagues. Mr. Shugerman replied no, the location is off to the side away from the field.
- Mr. Ken Temkin, abutter of Thompsonville Playground stated he visited the area with the Bowen PTO and this location is the best option, it is out of the way and closest to the school.
- Chairman Magni asked if a fence will be installed around the court. Mr. Shugerman stated the proposal does include a fence. Mr. Stern asked Commissioner DeRubeis if a fence is in the Departments budget. Commissioner DeRubeis replied yes.
- Mr. Shugerman requested a special commission meeting over the summer so the installation of the court will be complete before school starts in September.

Mr. Johnson made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing at a special meeting in July. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

5. OLAWG (Off-Leash Area Working Group)- Thompsonville Playground proposal – Informational

- Commissioner DeRubeis presented a proposal for an off-leash area in Thompsonville playground at the far end of the field, along the tree line. OLAWG continues to meet weekly. The group has met with sports groups that use Thompsonville Playground and they have Ok’d the proposal. If the Commission approves the proposal a public hearing would be scheduled for fall 2014.
- Mr. Tucker asked the dimensions. Commissioner DeRubeis replied ~35’x120’ fenced area.
- Mr. Neville asked how people would get to the area and what are the proposed times. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the dogs would be walked from Langley Path to the off-leash area on the edge of the field.
- Mr. Tucker commented Langley Path is not convenient to get to and walking the length of the field will have kids and dogs on the field at the same time.
- Mr. Dunker suggested an alternate location behind the baseball field next to Langley Path. Commissioner DeRubeis commented the area has been discussed, brush would have to be removed and it would be on top of the neighbors.

- Mr. Stern commented he is reluctant to add additional locations until the off-leash specialist has the ability to enforce the rules. Mr. Tucker agreed with Mr. Stern and asked how the Commission can help support the request for Jason to be allowed to write citations.

6. New Business

- Chairman Magni has received information that a group of people did not know about the public hearing regarding the Bullough's Pond building and they do not want a pavilion built they would prefer to have the area go back to nature. Mr. Stern stated the vote taken requires the group to come back to the Commission for final approval.

Meeting Adjourned 9:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall - Room 202
7:00 p.m. –Tuesday July 15, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Chairman Magni, Vice-Chairman Tucker, Commissioner DeRubeis, Byron Dunker, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Andrew Stern, Jack Neville, Peter Kastner

Meeting began at 7:04pm

1. Meeting Minutes –June 16, 2014- accepted 7-0

2. Bowen PTO- Thompsonville Playground- Basketball Court –Public Hearing

- The Bowen PTO appeared before the P & R Commission for an informational meeting on May 19th. The PTO proposed a half-court basketball court in Thompsonville Playground. Bowen Elementary School is overcrowded and modular buildings are being installed. The play area currently used has drainage issues and is referred to as the “mud pit”. There is an issue getting the kids outside for recess. A comprehensive plan is being developed which includes use of the upper field (Thompsonville Playground). The Commission requested the Bowen PTO come back with a detailed presentation for the Monday, June 16 P & R Commission meeting. Bowen PTO appeared before the Commission on June 16th.
- Mr. Shugerman, Bowen PTO representative reviewed the proposal. Questions from meeting attendees:

Q. Is lower basketball court being removed?

A. Yes

Q. Will the upper field court be lit?

A. No

Q. This has been presented as a single plan, why are there two courts?

A. Demand by school staff and parents to draw the kids to the upper field away from the mud area in the lower field. Lower field court is not available for use.

Q. Did the architect say the plan would work with a 4” impediment blocking the drain? The asphalt has not been laid out according to the plan

A. Roughly fits the design

Q. Is the plan in the planning stage? Abutters are surprised to see the blacktop put in on the lower field without notification.

A. There are two phases currently the plan is in phase I.

Q. Why weren’t the abutters surveyed?

A. There were conversations with the school administration and parents. Principal Guzzi and the staff support the proposal

Chairman Magni redirected the conversation to the proposal for the upper field basketball court. The P & R Commission has no jurisdiction over the lower field which is school land.

Q. Why a half court in the upper field, has a full court been considered?

A. A full court would not fit and the court is for the school aged kids, not to attract the older kids.

Q. Current abutters have seen teenagers on the lower field court late at night, there is drinking in the upper field, how will the upper field be monitored?

A. The group does not anticipate the half court to draw the attention of the older kids. The police can be called to patrol the area.

Q. Does the Bowen PTO support the proposed off-leash area for Thompsonville Playground?

A. The Bowen PTO has sent general language to endorse the Off-leash area as proposed.

Q. Is the stone water fountain staying?

A. Yes

Q. How much space is there between the courts and the trees?

A. 15'-20' gap

Q. Who is responsible for installation?

A. Parks & Recreation Department.

Q. Scrub brush encroaches on the upper field do you plan to clear it out?

A. Yes- on the Parks land which starts half way down the hill.

- Chairman Magni asked for comments from the meeting attendees.
- John Talvacchia, 302 Cypress Street commented he appreciates the efforts of the PTO members and asks the members to consider a full court basketball court.
- Jerry Tishler, 287 Langley Rd # 31 respectfully disagrees with the proposal. There will be trouble with kids in the upper field, the proposed court is in a remote area it is an attractive nuisance. The mandate for Parks & Recreation land is open space.
- Sol Nasir, 41 Cloverland Rd., commented the lower field has never been suitable for the kids to play on, the current basketball court is used for a variety of games and he supports the proposal.
- Dee Mallon, 10 Oakmont Rd stated she was the last person to submit a proposal to the Commission for the drainage issue. Without drainage there will be no grass.
- Jennifer Patterson stated if the kids could be directed to the upper field it would be great, little kids don't usually play basketball but they could play in the fields.
- Joel Hirshhorn, 14 Oakmont Road, stated he has been an abutter for twenty years and is unconvinced multiple basketball courts are a good use of space it will be more of a nuisance. This should have been discussed with abutters to determine what is best for the community.
- Jane Hirshhorn 14 Oakmont Road stated the jurisdiction is unclear of the property lines between school land and Parks & Recreation land. This needs to be clarified along with a movement towards working together.
- Lisa Wynman stated the overall plan looks good as done by the experienced architect. Separation of space between younger kids and older kids is a good idea.
- Sekony Noel, 394 Langley Rd sees two compelling issues tonight, an increase of noise for the abutters and the kids needing extra space and she supports the proposal.
- Deena Freed, 48 Warren Street stated 504 kids at Bowen School need the extra space and supports the proposal.
- Carolyn Schofield, 57 Daniel Street stated all three of her children attend Bowen School and they all play basketball and supports the proposal.
- Susan Stanton stated she is in favor of more space for the kids.
- Jess Brooks has been involved in the process it is difficult learning about the process as you go along and the group tried very hard to gather input from different people.
- Chairman Magni closed the public comments and asked for Commission comments.
- Mr. Kastner stated the Newton Public Schools (NPS) does things differently and is surprised at the administrative difference between NPS and Parks & Recreation. The basketball court is a proper use of park land.
- Mr. Dunker stated a small percentage of open space benefits the kids in the City. Mr. Dunker runs one of the little leagues and has games in Thompsonville Playground there have been no complaints about the kids. Making the open space more accessible to kids is important for the community.
- Mr. Stern stated he is an abutter of Newton Centre Playground and feels the abutter's pain but it is a fact of life and this is a minimum intrusion of open space and serves the need of the school.

- Mr. Tucker stated two of his children went to school at Bowen in the 90's the playground is usually mayhem first and organization second and likes the idea of spreading the kids out. The idea of growing grass in the lower field is useless; kids cannot be kept off the grass.

Mr. Dunker made the motion to accept the proposal for a half-court basketball court in Thompsonville Playground as presented. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

3. New Business

- Chairman Magni stated Mr. Stern would like to discuss Crystal Lake.
- Mr. Stern stated he is frustrated by the trespassing and disregard for the rules and regulations at Crystal Lake. The reasons the rules cannot be enforced are:
 - i. The Clerk Magistrate stated the ordinance lacks effective law.
 - ii. Believes the Board of Alderman, from a political perspective, are reluctant to vote on a new ordinance.
- Mr. Stern is proposing the Commission pursue the possibility of retaining council, pro-bono to take action to enforce a public official to enforce the law/rules and regulations.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked if this would be enforcement for Crystal Lake only. Mr. Stern replied yes primarily for Crystal Lake.
- Mr. Stern stated the City is working on maintaining the health of the lake and the trespassers jeopardize the health of the lake. The P & R Commission has the right to retain a police force; this proposal would start a conversation with the Mayor and Aldermen.
- Mr. Tucker asked if Newton Police would say they have been waiting for the ability to enforce the law. Mr. Stern stated Newton Police cannot react to calls/complaints. Mr. Tucker stated he would not recommend pursuing this proposal if the Newton Police don't say it is what they need.
- Mr. Stern stated the Commission needs to know:
 - i. If the Clerk Magistrate will not support the current ordinance
 - ii. Board of Alderman – if the political route is blocked
 - iii. Hear from the Newton Police
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated he wanted to disclose he met with members of the Swim at Your Own Risk (SAYOR) group and Marie Lawlor, Assistant City Solicitor. The meeting was to discuss a proposal for a formal swim club at Crystal Lake. Mr. Stern asked if this would be a privatized group. Commissioner DeRubeis stated this does not preclude the Commission from moving forward with this proposal.
- Mr. Stern is requesting permission from the Commission to move forward with this proposal to have enforcement in place by 2015.
- Mr. Kastner suggested going to the City's Law Department first.
- Mr. Stern commented more info is needed before the action stage:
 - i. Clerk Magistrate opinion
 - ii. BOA input
 - iii. New ordinance
 - iv. Police input
- Mr. Stern stated this would be a vehicle to move the issue off the stalemate position.
- Chairman Magni suggested speaking with the City's Law Department first.
- Mr. Stern stated we may already have the formal opinion from the City's Law Department, we need to write a new ordinance and the BOA must approve the new ordinance. This is not intended to embarrass the city, but may indicate the City is not helping out and it will get the discussion going.
- Mr. Tucker commented this issue needs to be clarified no matter what it takes.
- All in attendance agreed Chairman Magni will speak with the City's Law Department.

Meeting Adjourned 8:44 pm
Respectfully Submitted,

Rodin M. Laphin



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
124 Vernon St**

7:00 p.m. –Monday, September 22, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Jack Neville, Peter Kastner, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:50 pm

1. Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2014 - Approved 6-0 (Fishman & Charkoudian were not present during vote)

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- **Sub-committee for building at Nahanton Park-** rescheduled to October Meeting
- We had a successful swim season this year.
- Crystal Lake Working Group continues to meet. The groups' goal is to have a management plan by 2015.
- There are two Farmers Markets this summer. The Cold Spring Park market and the new market on Elm Street which is doing very well.
- Projects:
 - Moved the play equipment from Angier School to Carr School. The playground was relocated closer to the school. This caused the baseball field to be relocated.
 - There are several playground builds in process.
 - A Common Backyard Grant was received by the City. The new playground is being installed at Emerson Playground.
 - Cabot Park has several projects going on; the off-leash area is being renovated, the bocce courts have been renovated and the tennis courts have been resurfaced.
 - The half court at Bowen School is almost complete. Parks & Recreation and Public Works have completed their portion of the project the PTO has some work that need to be done.
 - Farlow Park Project is in front of the Finance Committee tonight.
 - The sports league representatives are concerned about using 100K for the construction documents and then having to come up with additional money.
 - Mr. Tucker asked if the City is taking the houses near Zervas via eminent domain. Commissioner DeRubeis responded yes it is in process but has nothing to do with Parks & Recreation.
- CIP- additional money for parks, playgrounds and trees has been added to the budget.
- The Off-Leash Area Working Group has put the proposal for NSHS on hold. Currently the group is researching areas for small dogs. Mr. Roberts has been assaulted twice by dog owners. The Commissioner is still in talks for Mr. Roberts to have citation rights.

3. Auburndale Cove Picnic Area – alcohol

- Commissioner DeRubeis stated a new manager has been at the Cove this year and a lot of issues have come to light. Commissioner DeRubeis is proposing to eliminate alcohol from the Auburndale Cove Picnic Area. Eliminating alcohol would allow for better enforcement in the area. Additional information will be provided at a later Commission meeting.

4. New Business

- Chairman Magni stated he has met with Donnalyn Kahn, City Solicitor regarding the Crystal Lake enforcement issues. The issue is not with the Clerk Magistrate, the issue is with the tickets and rules and regulations not being written properly. Abutters can swim in the lake and it is difficult for the Police to determine who is an abutter and who is not.

- Mr. Tucker asked if the Police can ask to see an ID. Chairman Magni stated if the Police ask to see an ID and the person refuses the person could be cuffed, but does not believe that would happen.
- Mr. Fishman stated Crystal Lake enforcement is a difficult situation.
- Chairman Magni stated the SAYOR group has proposed a swim club; there would be ID's for members. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the group has hit a roadblock with the insurance company.

Meeting Adjourned 8:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Agenda

City Hall, Room 209

7:00 p.m. –Monday, October 20, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

1. Meeting Minutes –September 22, 2014
2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance
 - Sub-committee for building at Nahanton Park
3. New Business
 - Update-Enforcement discussion with Police Chief Mintz

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need a special accommodation, please contact John Lojek, at least two days in advance of the meeting: jlojek@newtonma.gov, or 617-796-1064. For Telecommunications Relay Service dial 711.



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

City Hall, Room 209

7:00 p.m. –Monday, November 17, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andy Stern, Jack Neville, Peter Kastner, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:05 pm

1. Meeting Minutes
 - September 22, 2014 – Approved 7-0
 - No minutes recorded October 2014 (no quorum)
2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance
 - Commissioner DeRubeis reported on the passing of long time employees, Roy Martell and David Ireland
 - Crystal Lake Working Group is working on a management plan for the lake.
 - Off-Leash Area Working Group is working on a proposal for a small dog off-leash area. Cabot Park renovations are complete. The area is closed to allow the grass and trees a healthy start.
 - Indoor Farmers Market begins November 18 at the Hyde Community Center, 1pm-5pm.
 - There was a wrap up meeting for the new Elm Street Summer Farmers Market. There were no issues or complaints. The market was a fun community event.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis met with Michael Ahajian of Boating Boston, the new manager of the Commonwealth Ave canoe & kayak business. Mr. Ahajian would like to partner with Parks & Recreation to run summer camp programs.
 - NSHS tennis courts were renovated using the RiteWay system to get the teams through the MIAA tournament season. The NSHS courts are on the CIP list for a complete renovation next year.
 - Winter programs: NNHS Indoor Recreation, NSHS Indoor Recreation, Ski & Snowboard Program, School Vacation Camps.
 - Burr School Playground build is complete.
 - Waban Hill Reservoir is going before the CPC in December.
 - Emerson Playground grand opening is scheduled for December 2 at 2pm.
 - Establish sub-committee for building at Nahanton Park
 - December meeting: the group will review language of Nahanton Park agreement and appoint committee.
3. Jerusalem Day- Larry Koplan – Informational Meeting (proposal attached)
 - Mr. Koplan is requesting permission to hold the 2nd annual Jerusalem Day in Newton Centre on June 7, 2015. The event is sponsored by Christians and Jews United for Israel, Inc. ("CJUI"), a 501C non-profit organization. CJUI is requesting the P & R Commission allow the CJUI to have inflatable rides which will be delivered, set up, and operated only by a company familiar to, and approved by the City of Newton, and only operated after proper safety inspection. CJUI would also like approval by the department to have a few small mechanical rides for younger attendees such as carousel, kiddie fire engine ride, or something of that nature. CJUI also plans to have games, contests, and face painting for the younger kids. Along with dancing and singing to Israeli music, singers entertaining, and several speakers. Last June, it was estimated the event had in the area of 1,500 to 2,000 people attending the event through the day. CJUI will rent chairs,

tables, and toilet facilities, which will be delivered and picked up at the location. All will be removed by the end of the day of the event. For music, as well as the speakers, CJUI will require some sort of amplification system which will need to be rented, set up and dismantled. CJUI would like to end the event with a parade around Newton Center with the Newton Police directing traffic. CJUI will contact the Newton Police Department for their advice as to the best parade route.

- Mr. Koplan reported that last year's event was a great success. The merchants were pleased, the Police were a great help, and Newton Centre Green was left as it was found.
- Chairman Magni asked Commissioner DeRubeis if there were any issues reported last year. Commissioner DeRubeis reported there were no issues with this event.
- Mr. Stern mentioned concern over having inflatable rides. Mr. Koplan replied the company setting up the ride has provided service to Newton in the past and secures the inflatable rides.
- Mr. Neville asked how many Police Officers will be present. Mr. Koplan stated there were four officers on site during the event last year.

*Mr. Stern made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.
Motion passed 8-0.*

4. Auburndale Cove

- Outdoor Ice Skating Rules & Regulations (attached) – no changes- approved 8-0
- Summer Picnics- Alcohol – December meeting: review language & current policy regarding alcohol use at the Auburndale Cove.

5. New Business

- Update-Enforcement discussion with Police Chief Mintz
 - Mr. Stern reported Chairman Magni and Commissioner DeRubeis met with the Law Dept. and Police Dept. regarding the enforcement issues at Crystal Lake. Because the rules and regulations from 1924 make the offense of swimming outside the beach area a criminal offense instead of a civil offense, the Police are reluctant to enforce the rules. A change to the 1924 Rules and regulations would be required. The change would need to be approved by the Board of Alderman.

Meeting Adjourned 8:17 pm
Respectfully Submitted,
Robin McLaughlin

Laurence D. Koplan
1311 Commonwealth Ave.
West Newton, MA. 02465

November 7, 2014

Mr. Robert J. DeRubeis, Commissioner
Parks & Recreation Department
124 Vernon Street
Newton, Massachusetts 02458

Dear Commissioner DeRubeis:

At the suggestion of Robin McLaughlin of your department, I am writing this letter prior to my making a presentation at your next scheduled meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014, at 7:00 PM.

My wife and I are longtime residents of the City of Newton. My business is also headquartered in this city. No doubt, my wife and I feel a strong bond and always proud to say we are from Newton, Massachusetts.

We are both active members, as well as being on the Executive Board of a Massachusetts non-profit corporation, Christians and Jews United for Israel, Inc. ("CJUI"), which is located at 194 Grove Street, Chestnut Hill, MA. As your department so kindly allowed us to hold our annual Jerusalem Day event this past June 1st, I am requesting that we be issued a permit again to hold it next year, on Sunday, June 7th, 2015, on the two grassed parks in Newton Center, alongside Center Street. Our past event ran very smoothly, with no issues. The local merchants, who were open for business, were very cooperative and happy with the festivities. I personally spoke to a number of them the next day and heard only good reports. I made sure that we had more than adequate police coverage for both security and proper traffic flow. My wife and I were at the site early on Sunday morning, supervising the set up. We also were the last ones to leave when the event was over making sure that everything was left in perfect order and totally clean. We even hired people to remove all trash. When we left there, there were no signs that the festivities ever took place.

We are planning to have next year's event commence at 12:00 noon, on Sunday June 7th, and end at 5:00 P.M. CJUI will not in itself be serving any food, but as we did last June, we will select a few properly permitted food, ice cream, soft drink, or snack vendors, that the City of Newton is well familiar with, to sell refreshments. Absolutely, no alcoholic drinks will be sold or allowed at the event. As we did last June, we would again like the approval of The Parks and Recreation Department to allow CJUI to have inflatable rides which will be delivered, set up, and operated only by a company familiar to, and approved by the City of Newton, and only operated after proper safety inspection. CJUI would also like approval by the department to have a few small mechanical rides for younger attendees such as carousal, kiddie fire engine ride, or something of that nature. We will also plan to have games, contests, and face painting for the younger kids.

Along with dancing and singing to Israeli music, we will have singers entertaining, and several speakers. Last June, we estimate that we had in the area of 1,500 to 2000 people attending the event through the day. We will rent chairs, tables, and toilet facilities, which will be delivered and picked up at the location. All will be removed by the end of the day of the event, and under my personal supervision.

For music as well as the speakers we again will require some sort of amplification system which will

need to be rented as well as set up and dismantled. As we did last June, we would like to end the event with a parade around Newton Center with the Newton Police directing traffic. We will again contact the Newton Police Department for their advice as to the best parade route.

On behalf of CJUI, my wife, Beverly and I look forward to meeting with the Department next Monday evening, November 17th, 2014 at 7:00 PM, at Newton City Hall (Room 209) to discuss our proposal and answer any questions the committee may have.

Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Larry (Laurence) D. Koplan

OUTDOOR SKATING

2014 -2015

The following standards are used in determining sufficient ice thickness for safe skating:

Auburndale – Ware’s Cove	6” Black Ice, 9” Snow Ice
Newtonville – Bullough’s Pond	6” Black Ice, 9” Snow Ice
Newton Centre – Crystal Lake	**6” Black Ice, 9” Snow Ice

Note: Due to the varying water depths, unevenness of freezing, and an inability to contain the skating areas, the entire Lake must be frozen in order for safe skating to occur.

**Black Ice is formed by the freezing of water without a snowcap on it; thus creating a non-porous ice that is strong in consistency. Snow Ice is formed when a snow covers, over a thin layer of black ice melts and re-freezes to form a white porous ice.

HOURS OF OPERATION

1. At the outset of the coming skating season, it is recommended that the hours of operation for Auburndale Cove, be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 3:00 – 9:00 PM
Tuesday 2:00 – 9:00 PM
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays*, Vacations 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

2. At the outset of the coming skating season, it is recommended that the hours of operation for Bullough’s Pond and Crystal Lake be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 3:00 – Dusk
Tuesday 2:00 – Dusk
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays*, Vacations 10:00 AM – Dusk

3. If attendance does not warrant keeping the facility or facilities open during operation hours, it is then recommended that a cutback of program hours be instituted on an as needed basis with Managers approval.

*HOLIDAYS: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Day and President’s Day. The facilities will open for regular vacation hours only if we are able to procure adequate staff for safe operation. If the facilities will be closed, notification will be made to the Public and Safety Personnel at least 24 hours in advance.

Exception: All facilities will close at 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve.

Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City’s Law Department (2/5/92)



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209**

7:00 p.m. –Monday, December 15, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andy Stern, Jack Neville, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:00 pm

1. Meeting Minutes
 - November 17, 2014 – Approved 8-0
2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance
 - Community Preservation Committee Meeting – December 11
 - Waban Hill acquisition was approved for \$980,000.00 dollars
 - Newton Highlands project construction document cost of \$200,000.00 was approved.
 - Newton North High School netting project may not be done until 2016. Wesson & Sampson created a plan to install 60' netting behind home plate on the corner of Hull St. and Lowell Ave. The cost will be approximately \$320,000.00
 - There is a meeting of the Cabot School renovation working group this Thursday at 6pm. A portion of Cabot field may be used for parking and the field would be reconfigured to include the baseball field and a soccer field.
 - The department holiday party is Wednesday, December 17th 12-2pm. All Commission members are invited.
 - December vacation camps are full and the Summer Camp Fair will be held on Sunday January 25th at NNHS. The state minimum wage is increasing to \$9.00 per hour on January 1st. Camp fees may need to be increased by \$5.00.
 - Nahanton Park Working Group will discuss the tool house, the building located inside the Winchester Street entrance. The members include, Duane Hillis, representative of the Friends of Nahanton Park, Mr. Hillis will ask a member of the Newton Conservators to be part of the group, Commission members, Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke will be invited to be part of the working group.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis and Carol Schein met with Carolyn Kraft to discuss an art show at Kennard Park in 2016. Mrs. Kraft will be before the Commission in January 2015 for an informational meeting.
3. Jerusalem Day- Larry Koplan – Public Hearing
 - Mr. Koplan is requesting permission to hold the 2nd annual Jerusalem Day in Newton Centre on June 7, 2015. The event is sponsored by Christians and Jews United for Israel, Inc. ("CJUI"), a 501C non-profit organization. CJUI is requesting the P & R Commission allow the CJUI to have inflatable rides which will be delivered, set up, and operated by a company familiar to, and approved by the City of Newton, and only operated after a proper safety inspection. CJUI would also like approval by the department to have a few small mechanical rides for younger attendees such as carousal, kiddie fire engine ride, or something of that nature. CJUI also plans to have games, contests, and face painting for the younger kids. There will also be dancing and singing to Israeli music, singers entertaining, and several speakers. Last June, it was estimated the attendance was between, 1,500 to 2,000 people. CJUI will rent chairs, tables, and toilet facilities, which will be delivered and picked up at the location. All will be removed by the end of the day

of the event. For music, as well as the speakers, CJUI will require some sort of amplification system which will need to be rented, set up and dismantled. CJUI would like to end the event with a parade around Newton Center with the Newton Police directing traffic. CJUI will contact the Newton Police Department for their advice as to the best parade route. Mr. Koplan appeared before the Commission on November 17, 2014 for an informational meeting.

- Notification of the public hearing was sent to abutters of Newton Centre Green. No abutters were present at the meeting or contacted the Commissioner with any concerns or comments.

*Mr. Stern made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.
Motion passed 8-0.*

4. Auburndale Cove

- Summer Picnics- Alcohol –After speaking with the Law Department, review of the language & current policy regarding alcohol use at the Auburndale Cove was held, to possibly be discussed at a later date.

5. New Business – no new business

Meeting Adjourned 8:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin