



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Meeting Agenda

City Hall, Room 204 (formerly room 209)

7:00 p.m. – Monday, January 26, 2015

## Cancelled due to blizzard

1. Meeting Minutes - December 15, 2014
2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance
  - Introduce newly appointed Commission members, Sam Figler, Pat Palmer
3. Cabot School Renovation project- Alex Valcarce, Public Buildings - informational
4. Kennard Park Art Show – Carolyn Kraft – informational
5. New Business
  - Commission Elections

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](mailto:jlojek@newtonma.gov), or 617-796-1064. For Telecommunications Relay Service dial 711.



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**City Hall, Room 205**  
**7:00 p.m. –Monday, February 23, 2015**



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

**Attending:** Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Byron Dunker, Andy Stern, Peter Kastner, Pat Palmer, Michael Clarke, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

*Meeting began at 7:04 pm*

**1. Meeting Minutes - December 15, 2014 – Accepted 8-0**

No meeting, no minutes January 2015

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

- Snow removal has been the focus
- Camp Fair registration- This was the first season with automatic credit card processing. There was a technical glitch with the new system on the first night of registration. The staff immediately communicated the issue with the participants. The glitch was fixed by the following day and participants were able to register for the camps.

**3. Cabot School Renovation project- Alex Valcarce, Public Buildings - informational**

- Mr. Valcarce stated Cabot school is next in line for renovation. The project is similar to the Angier School renovation project, where organized parking is in the plan, additional space is required and tonight the group is looking for input from the Commission.
- Leno Fillipi and Donna DiNisco of DiNisco Design Partnership presented three options for a revised parking plan at Cabot School. Each plan requires a portion of Cabot Park. Currently there are 27 parking spaces the new plan includes 70 parking spaces.
- Mr. Kastner asked if there is a footprint of the new school. Mr. Valcarce said no, they are waiting for the Commission's input on the parking.
- Mr. Stern asked what is driving the need for additional parking. Mr. Valcarce stated the basic need for parking, right now the teachers are parking all around the neighborhood. Mr. Stern suggested taking the two houses on the corner next to the school. Mr. Valcarce commented the City would like to work within city land.
- Alderman Fuller commented there are issues at the park such as parking and financing upgrades. This project could provide useful upgrades for the school and for the park; it would be a win-win for everyone.
- Mr. Dunker commented during league games there is a parking issue.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated there has been serious discussion to keep the little league field where it is. There is an opportunity to look at the irrigation and add to the baseball field and major league field.
- Mr. Kastner asked Commissioner DeRubeis if Cabot Park is in the capital plan. Commissioner DeRubeis replied no Cabot Park is not in the capital Plan.
- Mr. Stern asked if the plan includes cutting down trees. Mr. Valcarce commented he would work closely with Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry.
- Mr. Stern asked Ms. Schein if Cabot Park has a master plan, Ms. Schein responded no, Cabot Park needs a master plan.
- Ms. Schein asked where the school playground would be located.
- Chairman Magni asked which option works best for the committee, Alderman Fuller responded the committee is still sorting out which would be best, renovation or a new school, the committee has to make the best plan for the next 100 years.

- Mr. Stern stated the Commission also must think of the next 100 years. There is a constant parade of well-meaning folk asking for park land.
- Mr. Clarke asked the committee to come back with a cost benefit analysis that does not involve park land.
- Mr. Tucker suggested the committee look into acquiring more property.

**4. Kennard Park Art Show – Carolyn Kraft, Alison Newsome – informational**

- Ms. Kraft, friends of Kennard Park presented an idea to create the opportunity for people to come to Kennard Park for an outdoor art show. Ms. Newsome is an artist and has participated in a similar type of art show in Portsmouth, NH. A webpage would be developed for people to follow the progress of the artists. There would be a grand opening celebration.
- Mr. Clarke asked where in Kennard Park this art show would be held. Ms. Kraft stated anywhere; the group is also working with the Conservation Commission.
- Mr. Stern asked if there would be a cost to the P & R Department. Ms. Kraft stated they would work with the P & R Department staff.
- Ms. Newsome stated there would be 7 or 8 artists, sometimes less is more. The exhibit would be a place of renewal.
- Mr. Tucker asked if this could be an annual event. Ms. Kraft responded yes.
- Mr. Kastner suggested a write up about the history of the building and land is included at the exhibit. Ms. Kraft stated that is a great idea and the Friends of Kennard Park will support the City to bring back the building and land.

*Mr. Stern made the motion to approve the concept of this proposal. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

**5. Bike Newton-Informational-Helen Rittenberg, Lois Levin, Caroline Genco, Nathan Phillips, Alicia Bowman**

- Bike Newton is proposing a traffic garden be installed into one of the City's parks, possibly Newton Centre, between the tennis courts and Centre St. A traffic garden is used to educate children and adults on bike, pedestrian and auto safety. Mr. Phillips commented he has been to a traffic garden in the Netherlands; it is not only educational but a fun activity for families. (Mr. Phillips provided a video link to the Commission of the Netherlands Traffic garden, <https://vimeo.com/31545084>). There is a traffic garden in Connecticut.
- Ms. Rittenberg stated the location of the traffic garden should be in a central, accessible location. The traffic garden would be around 3,600 square feet. The full time Newton Police Safety Officer and Bike Newton would be on site to provide the educational piece of the program. Bike Newton will be looking for contributions from the community. The plan is to design the traffic garden in 2015 and have it built in 2016. The P & R Department will take care of the area maintenance.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated that at this stage the Newton Centre location is not set in stone. No matter where the traffic Island is installed it would have to blend in with the site and include plantings and possibly a storage area. When Bike Newton makes their next presentation a detailed plan/schematics to show what the area will look like would be required.
- Mr. Tucker asked if the traffic garden would be for all ages and who would supervise the activity. The traffic garden will be for all ages and there are many volunteers through Bike Newton that will supervise the activities.
- Carolyn Genco stated she lost her daughter in a bicycle accident and believes the traffic garden would be a wonderful way to educate children and adults about bike, pedestrian and auto safety. Ms. Genco is also part of a 501c(3) that is willing to donate to the traffic garden.
- Mr. Palmer asked what the cost of the traffic garden will be. Ms. Levin stated the project is in the preliminary stage
- Ms. Bowman stated the next step would be to contact the Connecticut traffic garden organizers for their input.

- Mr. Kastner stated it is sad that the immediate thought is to further intrude on limited park land, other options should be considered.
- Ms. Levin stated she is an advocate for open space.
- Mr. Stern stated Newton Centre Playground is an Olmstead Brothers designed park. Would a traffic garden compromise the historic standing of the park. The more you venture from the original plan the less historic the site.

**6. New Business**

- Chairman Magni Introduced newly appointed Commission member Pat Palmer.
- Commission Elections – Commissioner DeRubeis requested nominations for Chairman and Vice- Chairman of the P & R Commission:

*Mr. Stern made the motion nominating Arthur Magni as Chairman Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.*

*Mr. Stern made the motion nominating Richard Tucker as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.*

Meeting Adjourned 8:55 pm  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin McLaughlin



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**City Hall, Room 204**  
**7:00 p.m. –Monday, March 16, 2015**



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, Peter Kastner, Pat Palmer, Sam Figler, Michael Clarke, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

*Meeting began at 7:06 pm*

1. **Meeting Minutes** – February 23, 2015 – accepted 8-0
2. **Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
  - Currently the department is working with contractors to clear the turf fields to prepare for the season. The MIAA has already pushed back their season, the leagues are in discussion about how to handle the season, waiting for the snow to melt and the fields to be ready.
  - Other issues will need to be addressed when the snow melts, such as damaged fences.
  - NNHS netting- Commissioner DeRubeis met with Alderman Norton, Alderman Crossley, Athletic Director Tom Giusti to discuss the plan to put netting up on 60 foot poles, behind the backstop, on the corner of Hull St and Lowell Ave. The cost would be around \$325,000.00. The project is tentatively scheduled for 2016.
  - Waban Hill Reservoir- the full Board of Alderman will vote tonight on the purchase of the Waban Hill Reservoir. A two thirds vote is needed to purchase the area.
  - The RFP was put out to bid for the Farlow Park pond/bridge project. There were no bidders.
  - The Departments budget presentation is scheduled for Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - The Newton Tab printed an article on the Nahanton Park Alms House History and there was also a public tour of the building. The Friends of Nahanton Park have voted 4-1 to demolish the building. Alderman Sangiolo is submitting paperwork to nominate the building as an historic landmark. Mr. Kastner stated the committee has not decided what should be done with the building. The committee needs a deadline to submit a proposal to the Commission. Mr. Clarke stated an RFP should be sent out for ideas of what to do with the building. Chairman Magni held the conversation until the **New Business** agenda item.
3. **Nonantum Village Day** – Informational – Lois Dominique
  - Ms. Dominique stated this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Nonantum Village Day. The event will be the same as last year and will take place on Watertown Street between Adams Street and Chapel Street and there will be activities in the Magni-Coletti Park (see attached) the event will take place rain or shine.
  - Mr. Stern asked if there were any issues with the bounce house safety or wind. Ms. Dominique replied the children are watched carefully, and the bounce house is secured.

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

4. **St. Mary of Carmen Festival** – Informational – Chuck Proia

- Mr. Proia stated this is the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the festival. The dates are July 15<sup>th</sup> – July 19<sup>th</sup> (see attached). Fiesta Shows will be managing the festival this year. This is a family friendly event.
- Chairman Magni asked if there were any issues last year. Mr. Dunker thought there were issues with the breakdown times last year. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the company was within the permit rules, and commented that Mr. Proia and Fiesta Shows do a great job every year managing the festival.
- Mr. Dunker asked where the money goes that is raised during the festival. Mr. Proia stated approximately twenty thousand goes to Police details, thirteen thousand is spent on entertainment, any remaining money is donated to the church, the Boys & Girls Club and other organizations in the community.

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

5. **Auburndale Cove** – Alcohol

- Commissioner DeRubeis explained the current parameters of the Auburndale Cove alcohol policy are difficult to enforce.
- Questions/Comments:
  - If alcohol is banned will this prohibit alcohol during the St. Mary of Carmen Festival?
  - The difference between cove permits and the festival permit:
    - The festival attends a two meeting process with the P & R Commission, including a public hearing, the cove permit holders do not.
    - The festival has a constant police detail, the cove permits rarely have police details assigned to the picnics.
    - The festival restricts alcohol consumption to a roped off area. At the cove people are not restricted to a specific area, it is impossible for police to enforce.
  - The concerns are:
    - Unsupervised consumption of alcohol around children and the river in a secluded location
    - P & R staff managing the cove and trying to enforce the policy have a difficult time with permit holders. The weekends are booked 9am-8pm during the season, with a minimum of 300+ people occupying the sites all day long (this number does not include people using the park who do not have a permit).
  - Commissioner DeRubeis will ask a member of the Law Department for input on this issue.
  - This item will be tabled until there is more clarity on how the ban of alcohol at the cove will affect the St. Mary of Carmen festival.

6. **New Business**

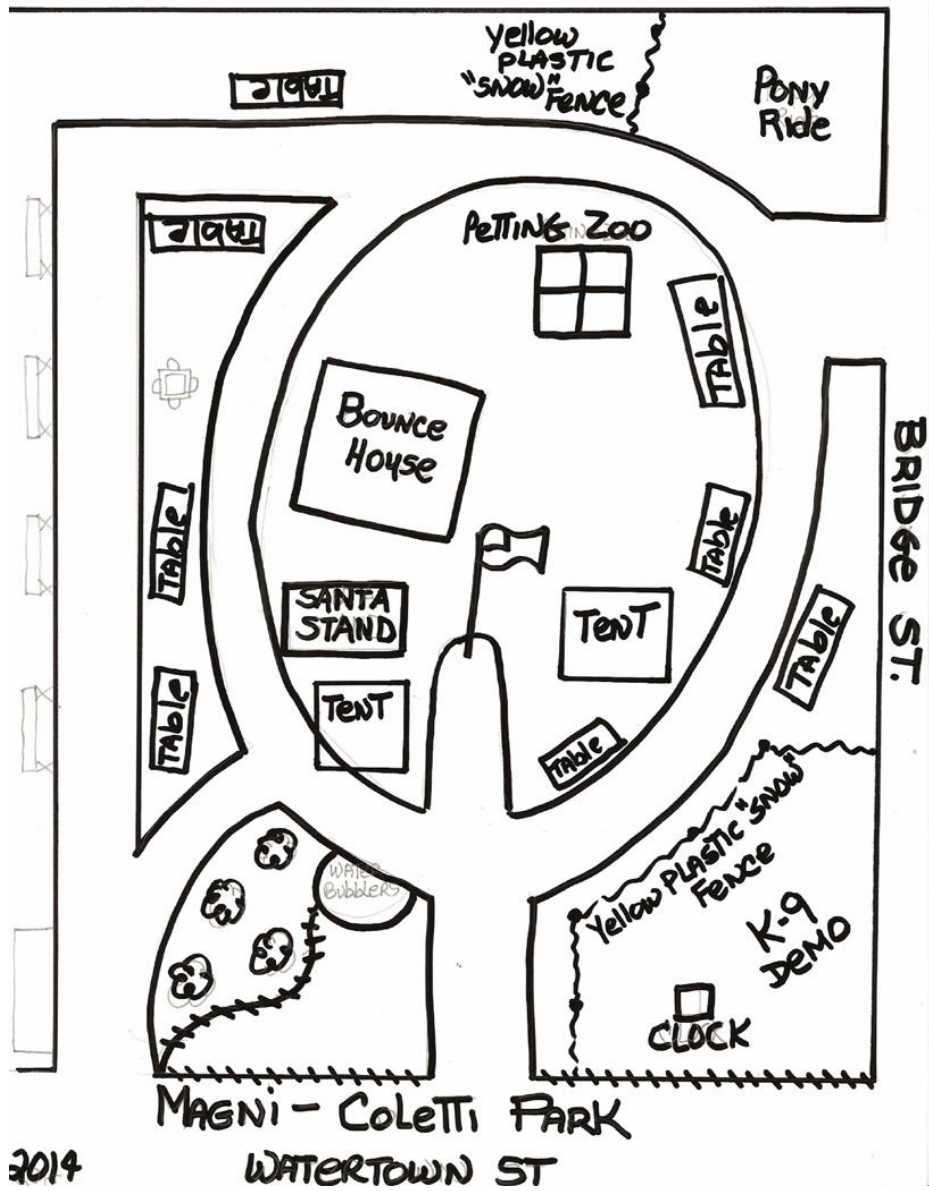
- Nahanton Park Tool Shed
  - The Newton Tab printed an article on the Nahanton Park Alms House History and there was also a public tour of the building. The Friends of Nahanton Park have voted 4-1 to demolish the building. Alderman Sangiolo is submitting paperwork to nominate the building as an historic landmark. Mr. Kastner stated the committee has not decided what should be done with the building. The committee needs a deadline to submit a proposal to the Commission. Mr. Clarke stated and RFP should be sent out for ideas of what to do with the building. Chairman Magni held the conversation until the New Business agenda item.

- Continuing the discussion, Mr. Kastner restated a timeline for a proposal and a chairman should be assigned to the working group. And before landmark status is assigned to the tool shed there are other sites that should be reviewed such as the Newton Centre Hut and the building in Kennard Park.
- Mr. Clarke Public Buildings has used the tool shed since 1964, the structure is solid and a use should be found for the building. Keep the building to remember the history.

*Mr. Fishman made a motion to nominate Vice-Chairman Tucker as the chairman of the Nahanton Park Tool Shed Working Group and requested a proposal be submitted to the Commission by the October 2015 P & R Commission meeting (October 19, 2015). Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.*

- Chairman Magni introduced and welcomed Mr. Sam Figler, the newly appointed alternate member of the P & R Commission.

Meeting Adjourned 8:35 pm  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin McLaughlin







# SAINT MARY OF CARMEN SOCIETY

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## 80TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL

**Saint Mary  
of Carmen  
Society**

Frank Battista  
*President*

Michael Leone  
*Vice President*

Jason Pisano  
*Secretary*

David Annese  
*Treasurer*

Anthony Gentile  
*President  
Emeritus*

Charles Proia  
*Festival  
Chairman*

Roger Marrocco  
*Festival  
Vice Chairman*

Joseph Caruso  
*Festival  
Vice Chairman*

Mike Olivo  
*Festival  
Vice Chairman*

Tino Degisi  
*Scholarship  
Chairman*

Tax Exempt  
#  
20-4035392

March 2, 2015

Robert DeRubeis  
Commissioner  
Newton Recreation Department  
124 Vernon Street  
Newton, MA 02458

Dear Commissioner DeRubeis,

Please find below the information requested in support of our permit for the St. Mary of Carmen Society Festival on the grounds of JoAnne C. Pellegrini Memorial playground.

The St. Mary of Carmen Society would like to again sponsor Fiesta Shows to operate a carnival & food vendors at Pellegrini Playground with the following dates & times.

Set-up – Carnival will arrive no earlier than 8 AM, July 13<sup>th</sup> to begin set-up on that day through Wednesday afternoon, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Carnival will operate:

July 15<sup>th</sup> - 6PM until 11PM – all lights off by 11:30PM (Wednesday)

July 16<sup>th</sup> - 6PM until 11PM – all lights off by 11:30PM (Thursday)

July 17<sup>th</sup> - 6PM until 11PM – all lights off by 11:30PM (Friday)

July 18<sup>th</sup> - 6PM until 11PM – all lights off by 11:30PM (Saturday)

July 19<sup>th</sup> - 1PM until 11pm - all activity ceases at 11:00PM and the carnival operator will be allowed until 1:00AM to begin the process of clean up and equipment removal, all activity to cease by 1:00AM, all carnival personnel to be off the premises by 1:30AM.

July 20<sup>th</sup> – Removal will commence no sooner than 8AM and conclude by 10PM

July 21<sup>st</sup> – Final cleanup & removal will be finished by 12 Noon.

Entertainment for the festival will be as follows:

Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM – 10PM, Italian band TBD (Italian American Music)

Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM – 7:30PM, Rock Salt (Local trio pop Band)

7:30 – 10PM, Living on a Bad Name (Bon Jovi Tribute Band)

Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM – 10 PM, The Legit Band (Local Pop Cover Band)

Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM – 8:15PM, The Reminisants (Oldies Band)

8:30 PM - 10:30PM DK's House Party (J Geils Tribute Band)

Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> 2 PM – 5 PM, Afternoon Procession thru Street of Nonantum

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Seabreeze (Italian Orchestra)

10:00PM – 10:45 PM, Candlelight Procession to Our Lady's Church (Adams – Watertown – Washington Streets)

Sincerely,

Charles Proia  
Festival Chairman

ST. MARY OF CARMEN SOCIETY PO BOX 95094 NEWTON, MASS 02495



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**City Hall-Cafeteria**



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

**7:00 p.m. –Monday, April 27, 2015**

**Attending:** Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Dick Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Bethel Charkoudian, Andy Stern, Peter Kastner, Byron Dunker, Peter Johnson, Jack Neville, Pat Palmer, Sam Figler, Michael Clarke

*Meeting began at 7:15 pm*

**1. Meeting Minutes - March 16, 2015**

- Approved 8-0

**2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance (report was given after item #8)**

- The Marathon was uneventful, the concern was protestors but it was a good day
- Newton Serves - Parks & Recreation supported 45-50 projects with tools, bags and deliveries of mulch
- Crescent Street re-use is back on the table
- Crystal Lake Working Group is drafting a management RFP

**3. Nonantum Village Day – Public Hearing**

- Ms. Dominique appeared at the March 18 P&R Commission for an informational meeting. This is the 4th year of the Nonantum Village Day. The event will be the same as last year and will take place on Watertown Street between Adams Street and Chapel Street. There will be activities in the Magni-Coletti Park (see attached) the event will take place rain or shine. Abutters were notified of the public hearing to share comments, issues or concerns. There were no abutters present.

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

**4. St. Mary of Carmen – Public Hearing**

- Mr. Proia appeared at the March 18 P&R Commission for an informational meeting. This is the 80th Anniversary of the festival. The dates are July 15th – July 19th (see attached). Fiesta Shows will be managing the festival this year. This is a family friendly event. Abutters were notified of the public hearing to share comments, issues or concerns. There were no abutters present.
- Chairman Magni recused himself from the vote. Chairman Magni is a member of the St. Mary of Carmen Society.

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

**5. Bike Newton – Traffic Garden – Informational - Helen Rittenberg, Lois Levin, Alicia Bowman**

- Bike Newton is proposing a traffic garden be installed into one of the City's parks, possibly Newton Centre, between the tennis courts and Centre St. A traffic garden is used to educate children and adults on bike, pedestrian and auto safety. The group presented the attached proposal. And are asking the Commission to recommend a location and approval to proceed with proposal.
- The Commission members concerns:

- There is limited open space in Newton, many groups' present proposals for use of open space. The Commission asked the group if they have looked at utilizing school property. The group would like a central location for all residents to access. Using school property raises concerns for the schools, having people they do not know on their property. Bike Newton members stated Newton Centre appears to be an ideal location, there is the space required near the tennis courts and the park is centrally located. Ms. Schein commented the proposal would be required to go before the Conservation Commission due to the water running through the park.
- Ms. Charkoudian requested info on the plastic composition of the grates proposed to be used for the track.
- The Commission requested Bike Newton research other available non Parks & Recreation property as an option for the traffic garden.

#### **6. Pellegrini Park - Shade Structure – Informational**

- Lydia Scott of the Planning Department presented the plan for the shade structure at Pellegrini Park. The Shade structure is part of the Master Plan for the area the concrete slab is in place and will be installed through CDBG funding. (See attached)
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented that, the shade structure is an appropriate use for the area.
- Mr. Johnson asked if the structure will be installed after the St. Mary of Carmen Festival. Ms. Scott relied yes.
- Chairman Magni asked if a public hearing is required.

*Mr. Tucker made the motion to suspend the requirement of a public hearing.*

*Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

*Mr. Stern made the motion in favor of installation of the shade structure at Pellegrini Park.*

*Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0*

#### **7. Tennis Fees – Mike Lewitt**

- Clay Court Fees -Rules & Regulations – no changes for the season.
- Mr. Johnson asked the breakdown of residents and non-residents. Mr. Lewitt replied 94 residents and 9 non-residents. Mr. Stern asked what the goal is for membership. Mr. Lewitt stated 150 members is the goal.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated of the 94 members 15 are women. To increase women membership a bathroom facility would be required. The Hut is being used for a summer camp and after school program so, it is unavailable for the tennis court members.
- Mr. Kastner asked the cost to maintain the clay courts. Mr. Lewitt replied \$400.00.

*Mr. Tucker made the motion to accept the 2015 Newton Tennis clay court rules, regulations and fees.*

*Mr. Kastner seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

#### **8. Nahanton Park – Tool Shed- Update**

- Nahanton Park Tool Shed Working Group Chairman Tucker provided an update from the group.
  - The temporary fire station will be leaving the park this summer/early fall.
  - The Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the Commission and City needs to be reviewed and enforced.
  - It is important that the ruins be well documented and preserved.
  - The working group majority are ok with taking the building down.
  - It is highly unlikely CPC funds will be available, this building is not a top priority of the city. To restore the tools shed is cost prohibitive.
  - The Newton Historic Commission has tabled the request for the building to be landmarked the Mass Historical Commission requires additional information. Mr.

Tucker contacted Mass Historical Commission and they informed him the building would not be landmarked the land/park would be landmarked. Mr. Clarke put a lot into the research and history of the Alms House, worthy of respect and gratitude.

- Seeking landmark status seems counter-productive. Ms. Schein and Ms. Schroeder have suggested memorializing the area with a nice path through the actual ruins of the Alms House. Ms. Schein stated interpretive signs could be installed. Mr. Figler asked a cost estimate. Ms. Schroeder suggested a BCA intern make a plan.
- Mr. Clarke made a presentation showing a few of the 50 cubic feet of documents regarding the almshouse, many of which have been recently found in the City Archives, including: indenture contracts from 1730-1789, petitions of the Overseers of the Poor over the same period, almshouse registers and ledgers from about 1820 to 1912, and minutes of the Overseers of the Poor and their successors from about 1865 to 1968. The Newton City Archivist, Nancy Kougeas, believes these to be among the most complete set of such documents in Massachusetts.
  - Mr. Clarke also observed that:
    - Nahanton Park is Newton's only true heritage park. Unlike parks such as Farlow, Edmands and Burr, which were donated by wealthy families, Nahanton Park derives from Newton's rich social and cultural history.
    - The remaining structure is still standing because it was made to last of brick, stone and heavy beams, and has been in constant use since its construction in 1938.
    - Nahanton Park has nothing to do with Nahanton (Nehoiden) who occurs in history mainly as a land dealer, so the name does not reflect its history.
    - Nahanton Park exists because half of its land was the almshouse and poor farm, constructed in 1900, and the other half the Diocesan Working Boys Home, constructed in 1896. Consequently, it is Newton's Almshouse Park.
    - The remaining stone and brick structure along with the entire almshouse landscape should be preserved because of the history it represents in how Newton and the nation sought to provide for the less fortunate. The request pending before the Newton and Massachusetts Historical Commissions is to preserve the almshouse landscape in order to acknowledge and reflect the role of almshouses in the social structure of Newton through 18th, 19th and 20th centuries..
- Chairman Magni asked what the plan is for funds so the building doesn't just sit where it is as is, even if the building receives landmark designation there is no money available.
- Alderman Sangiolo stated she has forwarded the information to the Aldermen, and a couple of Aldermen are supporting the request for landmark status. Alderman Sangiolo requested the Commission let the landmark status application play out. The documents have been submitted; if the park is landmarked the money will come.
- Chairman Magni stated the original task for the working group was to come up with a plan by the October 19, 2015 Commission meeting, is this an acceptable time frame. Alderman Sangiolo agreed this was a reasonable time frame.
- Mr. Hillis, abutter of Nahanton Park for 30 years stated Nahanton Park should be a park. The research done by Mr. Clarke is awesome; there is no need to preserve the building to share the history. The conservation restriction agreed upon in the MOU is on hold until the landmark status is decided.

## 9. New Business

- **Budget** - Budget presentation is scheduled for Wednesday
  - Beautification Division is transferring to Parks & Recreation including vehicles and 9 maintenance staff including Elaine Gentile
  - Forestry – Addition of three additional crew
  - Additional \$150,000 per year to replace 2 playground structures per year
  - Additional \$30,000 per year for regulation ball fields
  - Addition of Assistant Special Needs Director to be paid by revolving account and Athletes Unlimited
- **Parks & Recreation Buildings**

- Upper Falls storage shed used for little league is being cleaned up

Meeting Adjourned 9:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robin McLaughlin*



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

### Room 209 – City Hall

**7:00 p.m. –Monday, May 18, 2015**

**Attending:** Chairman Magni, Vice-Chairman Tucker, Andy Stern, Bethel Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Don Fishman, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville, Sam Figler

Meeting began 7:04pm

**1. Meeting Minutes - April 27, 2015**

- Approved 8-0

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

- Commissioner was absent from meeting. Report held.

**3. Kennard Park - Art Show – Informational**

- Carolyn Kraft, Friends of Kennard Park and Allison Newsome, local artist are proposing an outdoor art show in Kennard Park during the summer of 2016. Ms. Newsome has run a similar event at Allendale Farm. Once the artists are selected by the committee, a website would be designed for the public to watch the artists design and create the artwork for the art show. This would be a temporary art show the pieces would not remain the park permanently.
- The Commission members asked who would approve the sketches.
- Chairman Magni mentioned the Commission approved the poems for the Poetry in Edmands Park project.
- Ms. Newsome & Ms. Kraft suggested the Commission review the sketches of the art work and bring up any concerns at that point in the process.

*Ms. Charkoudian made the motion to approve the proposal as presented with the agreement that the Commission will review and approve the sketches of art work. The proposal will move forward to a public hearing. Mr. Neville seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

**4. New Business**

- Packet information process – held for discussion
- Youth Awards – June Commission meeting

Meeting adjourned 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted

*Robin McLaughlin*



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

#### Room 209 – City Hall

7:00 p.m. –Monday, June 15, 2015

**Attending:** Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Bethel Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Don Fishman, Peter Johnson, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville, Don Fishman

#### Youth Awards, 7pm in the Aldermanic Chambers, recipients:

Judge Franklin N. Flaschner	Joshua Cohen
Judge Julian Yesley Young Award	SeungWan Kang
Police Officer Robert Braceland	Andrew Goldstein
Irene Bickleman Junior Youth Award	Matthew Moylan
Russell J. Halloran Lifetime Achievement Award	Rich Catrambone

Meeting began 7:57 pm

#### 1. Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2015

- Approved 8-0

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

- The Beautification Department will now be under the Parks & Recreation Department starting July 1, 2015.
- The department continues to work with the Executive Department to update the policy and procedure for replacing play structures.
- Mr. Neville asked about the temporary structure that collapsed in the Public Works yard on Eliot St. Commissioner DeRubeis replied the structure was previously used for the temporary fire station, when the fire station moved out, P & R maintenance stored equipment in the structure. Some equipment was damaged.

#### 3. Cabot School Renovation Project – informational (see attached design)

- In attendance to present the proposal: Alejandro Valcarce, Public Buildings Department, Donna DiNesco & Leno Filippi, DiNesco Design Partnership, Tom Murphy, JLA, Inc.
- Chairman Magni reminded all in attendance this is an informational meeting, public comment will be held until there is a public hearing.
- Mr. Filippi presented the attached design for the Cabot School renovation project. There have been several designs throughout the process. With the



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

current plan the group is keeping the original building built in 1929. The goals are to provide additional parking and connectivity with the park.

- Mr. Tucker asked how much of the park is being taken for additional parking. Mr. Filippi replied a half acre.
- Mr. Kastner asked if any other alternatives have been looked at. Mr. Fillipi replied this design has the least impact overall.
- Mr. Neville asked if the bus entrance is on park land. Mr. Fillipi replied yes. Mr. Johnson stated with the turnaround (1/4 acre) and additional parking (1/2 acre) the total park land taken is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre.
- Mr. Tucker asked if eminent domain is still an option. Alderman Albright responded this is a different situation than the Zervas project, the status of the houses near Zervas was one house was in foreclosure and the other house was for sale.
- Alderman Albright stated she is thrilled to be part of the Cabot School renovation project and creating a better connection between the school and the park. Parking is a concern and there are other parking alternatives. Alderman Albright has spoken with the owner of Cabot Village and he is willing to participate in a parking study. Alderman Albright asks the city to work harder to find other options.
- Alderman Fuller commented the group has looked at a lot of options. A concern is parking in the neighborhood, and keeping passive and active recreation in the park. The proposed plan is good and the group needs to work on passive recreation space. The design of having the gym as part of park land is a real advantage.
- Mr. Tucker asked if there is a commitment to provide a parking space for each person. Mr. Fillipi responded the school needs 90 parking spaces.
- Mr. Fillipi stated there has been some discussion of additions to the park that include: replacing the perimeter fence, additional irrigation and reclamation of ballfield, and a picnic area in the green space in the new parking area.
- Chairman Magni stated we cannot dismiss the heritage of the park, Olmstead made it clear the importance of unstructured open space. This plan saturates the park with programming. Chairman Magni agrees with Alderman Albright regarding the parking, other parking alternatives need to be researched.
- Mr. Tucker suggested making the gym two stories with parking below the gym.
- Mr. Fishman agreed scrutiny on parking is needed, along with a better vision on how people enter and exit the school.
- Ms. Charkoudian stated the commission members were appointed to the P & R Commission with the task to protect the open space and the parks of Newton.
- Mr. Fishman stated this project is not ready for a vote, it is just beginning.

*Mr. Neville made the motion to form a sub-committee to include neighbors, school parents, commission members and public buildings to discuss the plan. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*



- Commissioner DeRubeis asked who will be appointed to the sub-committee.
- The commission members agreed; Commissioner DeRubeis, Carol Schein, Jack Neville, Buzz Dunker, Public Buildings representatives, neighborhood representative and a parent from the school .

**4. New Business**

- **CPC appointment- Don Fishman - current representative**

*Mr. Tucker made the motion to re-appoint Don Fishman as the P & R Commission representative on the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

Meeting adjourned 9:25pm

Respectfully Submitted

*Robin McLaughlin*

**Proposed Cabot School Renovation Plan**



10 June 2015

*DiNisco Design Partners*  
Limited  
architects and planners

**Proposed Site Plan**

CABOT SCHOOL  
Newton, MA



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Special Meeting Minutes

#### Room 204 – City Hall

7:00 p.m. –Monday, June 29, 2015

**Attending:** Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Bethel Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andy Stern, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville, Pat Palmer

Meeting began 7:00 pm

#### 7:00pm:

1. **Meeting Minutes - June 15, 2015 – approved 7-0** (Stern not present)

#### 2. **Kennard Park – Art Show- Public Hearing- Vote Required**

- Carolyn Kraft, Friends of Kennard Park and Allison Newsome, local artist are proposing an outdoor art show in Kennard Park during the Fall of 2016. Ms. Newsome has run a similar event at Allendale Farm. Once the artists are selected by the committee, a website would be designed for the public to watch the artists design and create the artwork for the art show. This would be a temporary art show the pieces would not remain the park permanently. Ms. Kraft appeared before the Commission on May 18, 2015 for an informational meeting. Notification was sent to the abutters for a chance to comment or ask question regarding this event. There were no comments or questions from the abutters regarding the event.
- Mr. Kastner asked how the Friends of Kennard Park would use the money raised at the event. Ms. Kraft stated the money would be used to improve the park, such as installing a new sign, or repairing the stone wall. The event is an opportunity to bring awareness and educate others about Kennard Park.
- Mr. Tucker commented this is an opportunity of coordination between the Friends of Kennard Park and the Parks & Recreation Department. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the cooperation has already been established between the department and the Friends group.
- Ms. Kraft thanked the Commission for holding the special meeting, timing is important in contacting artists for the art show.

*Mr. Tucker made the motion to accept the proposal as presented with the agreement that the Commission will review and approve the sketches of art work. Mr. Neville seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

7:30pm

**3. Newton Highlands Project Update – Informational Public Hearing - No Vote required**

1. Gene Bolinger and Cheri Ruane of Weston & Sampson presented an update of the Newton Highlands Playground Rehabilitation CPA funded Project. This final design phase follows the 2008 Master Plan. (see attached)
2. Work completed to date during this phase:
  - Field Work
  - Public Meeting
  - Design development
  - Advancing on permitting
3. Upgrades to be done:
  - Grading and drainage of field
  - Formalize pathways in wooded area and around perimeter of the field and to connect the different areas
  - Signage
  - Ms. Ruane reviewed Playground plan
4. Questions & Comments:
  - How close, to the abutters, will the trails be in the wooded area?
    - ✓ The trails will be closer to the field due to cost and accessibility
  - Mr. Tucker: Will there be bleacher seating?
    - ✓ Yes ~ 100-140 bleacher seats
  - Mr. Palmer: question design of little league field. Mr. Bolinger replied the little league field is 210' all around.
  - Mr. Tucker: In favor of the plan, asked if there was any concern about safety of kids in the wooded area. Mr. Bolinger replied safety is an item to be discussed, to his knowledge, over the past few years there have been no reported incidents. Inviting people to use the park creates more security. Mr. Kastner suggested requesting Police reports for the area or any other area with a proposal.
  - Abutter: this was a wonderful presentation. The wooded area is an untouched areas heavily wooded with bugs, etc. Not many people will use the paths.
  - Abutter: There is a lot of poison ivy on Dedham Street. Agrees the formalized paths are not a good idea, keep the wooded area in its natural state.
  - Mr. Kastner: What is a seat wall? Mr. Bollinger replied the seat wall is a stonewall, for sitting. Mr. Kastner suggested adding a back to the

wall, the backing may be a good option for seniors. Mr. Bolinger replied there will also be benches though-out the park.

- Alderman Crossley: Had the pleasure of previously working with Weston & Sampson and is enthusiastic about this plan. Alderman Crossley is concerned about the capacity in the culvert the plan needs to tie back into the culvert. Has there been discussion of collecting water for watering the grass. Mr. Bolinger stated the idea has been discussed. Alderman Crossley stated the City does not have a phosphorus removal plan to improve water quality, but a plan is coming using water without phosphorus is a great idea.
- Abutter: Is the Upland Ave extension being graded to change the width? Mr. Bolinger stated the money for the master plan is for the park land proper but they are coordinating with the Engineering and Public Works departments to upgrade the street.
- Abutter: 56 Washington Street ramp to Sunoco gas station is higher than the field
- Abutter: what is the timeframe on the upgrade? Mr. Bolinger stated it is dependent on funding. Commissioner DeRubeis stated three years is being optimistic
- Abutter: is there a plan to restore the water fountains. Commissioner DeRubeis stated it depends on the location of the water lines.
- Mr. Neville: asked the purpose of the perimeter pathway and the width of the pathway. Mr. Bolinger stated the pathway will be 5' to 6' wide, connect the facilities and meet ADA regulations. Mr. Neville suggested the asphalt pathway be 8' to 10' wide like a golf course, when maintenance vehicles travel on the path you will get breakage on the edges of the path.
- Mr. Palmer asked if artificial turf is an option. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the CPC will not fund artificial turf.

## 5. Other items

- **Cabot School renovation sub-committee** meeting is Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Mr. Stern commented the Commission should be proactive, should be quid pro quo
- Chairman Magni stated there were some off sets provided in the last public meeting presentation.
- Mr. Neville stated the plan is taking more land than you think; the Commission needs to do the right thing.
- Ms. Charkoudian stated we should not have to give up park land the Commissions job is to keep park land.
- Mr. Tucker stated he sat through the Angier School presentation and never would have thought it would like it does now.

- **Nahanton Park** – Mr. Tucker has contacted the Mass Historical Society (MHS) in regards to the application submitted for landmark status of the tool shed. The MHS will take into account the owner’s opinion regarding the landmark status. Mr. Kastner suggested a letter be written to MHS. Chairman Magni reminded the group this topic was not on the agenda for discussion. No action taken on this item.
- **Emerson Playground** – Mr. Neville thanked Commissioner DeRubeis and Carol Schein for the refinished basketball courts at Emerson Playground. Commissioner DeRubeis thanked Mr. Neville and stated this was a combined effort with the neighborhood.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm

Respectfully Submitted

*Robin McLaughlin*





## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Special Meeting Minutes

### Aldermanic Chambers

**7:00 p.m. –Monday, August 24, 2015**

**Attending:** Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Bethel Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andy Stern, Peter Kastner, Peter Johnson

Meeting began 7:00 pm

#### **1. Cabot School Renovation Project – Informational meeting**

- Chairman Magni reminded all in attendance this meeting is an informational meeting. Public comments will be heard at a public hearing which could be scheduled in September.
- Alex Valcarce, Public Buildings Department commented tonight's presentation is the third update for the Cabot School Renovation project. The group is looking for the best solution while following the Mass School Building Authority requirements. There is a requirement of 90 parking spaces for Cabot School. There has been discussion of working with Cabot Park Village to use spaces in their lot. Mr. Valcarce introduced Leno Filippi of DiNesco Design Partnership.
- Mr. Filippi reviewed the presentation (see attached). The current building built in the 1950's will be demolished. The building from 1929 will be used. Currently the school has 27 thousand square feet and it needs 85 thousand square feet.
- Mr. Tucker asked if parking is first come first serve or assigned spots. Mr. Valcarce replied the spots are usually not assigned. During school hours the spots would be used by school staff, during non-school hours the parking would be shared usage. Mr. Tucker asked if neighbors lose the option to park in the spots during school hours. Mr. Valcarce answered yes.
- Chairman Magni asked how they came up with 90 spots required. Mr. Valcarce replied an analysis was done at the school on the usage by full time, part time and specialist staff.
- Mr. Stern asked what the percentage of the parks land is taken for the no lot option. Mr. Filippi stated .39 acres.
- Mr. Stern asked besides the use of Cabot Village what other alternatives were explored and rejected. Mr. Valcarce stated nothing has been rejected; the parking will be in the neighborhood. A parking study will be done in the next few weeks.
- Chairman Magni asked Commissioner DeRubeis if sports teams could use other fields instead of moving the softball field. Commissioner DeRubeis stated losing the softball field is not an option, if the field is not relocated then the soccer field will have a partial dirt surface.

- Chairman Magni asked the members to take a vote to move the proposal to a public hearing and which proposal will be presented at the public hearing.
- Mr. Valcarce stated the group is looking for approval of either the 28 car lot or no lot option. The 45 car lot has been removed as an option.
- Mr. Tucker stated he lives near Boston College (BC) and there is perpetual parking in the neighborhood by BC staff, is this the same issue at Cabot School?
- Alderman Fuller commented there would be a plan for parking at Cabot School similar to NNHS including the school/community input.
- Mr. Tucker made the motion to move the proposal to public hearing, Mr. Dunker seconded the motion
- Mr. Stern asked if all three options were going to public hearing. Mr. Valcarce stated only the 28 car lot and no lot options will be presented at a public hearing.
- Mr. Stern suggested amending the motion and split the vote into two votes, one vote for the 28 car lot and one vote for the no lot.
- Mr. Kastner stated even with the no lot option park space is being taken for perimeter parking, the play area and turnaround. Is it safe for kids to be playing near a turn around?
- Mr. Johnson stated it is shortsighted not to have both options for public comment. Will there be additional information on alternative parking ideas by the public hearing? Mr. Valcarce stated they will continue to work on the alternative ideas.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked why there is no 4<sup>th</sup> option, one without a turn around. Mr. Valcarce stated the turnaround is needed for parking and drop off.
- Ms. Charkoudian stated there is no mention of mitigation if parkland is utilized. Mr. Valcarce stated there is a list of various ideas and the list is still out there.
- Mr. Stern asked the members if there is a reason for a two part vote. Is there any chance, as stewards, that the 28 car lot option would pass a vote?
- Mr. Tucker commented there is shared park land at Angier School and most likely down the road for Zervas School. There is concern, are we doing the best job we can, but we cannot vote down a school project.
- Ms. Charkoudian stated it is the Commissions responsibility to protect park land.
- Mr. Kastner asked Commissioner DeRubeis if there was any dedicated recreation parking. Commissioner DeRubeis replied no. Mr. Kastner asked, what is Parks & Recreation's responsibility in developing parking for recreation programs. Abutters are most impacted by the parking.
- Ms. Charkoudian requested the no Lot option be renamed. No Lot gives the impression that no park land is being taken.
- Mr. Stern stated the Commission should turn down the 28 car lot option to force another alternative. Mr. Stern withdrew his amendment to the motion.



Mr. Tucker made the motion to move the 28 car lot option and no lot option to a public hearing. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1 (Stern).

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm  
Respectfully Submitted  
*Robin McLaughlin*

**Current:**



**Proposed:**





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*



## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

### Aldermanic Chambers

**7:00 p.m. –Monday, September 30, 2015**

**Attending:** Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Bethel Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Don Fishman, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville

Meeting began 7:12 pm

#### **1. Meeting Minutes:**

- June 29<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting – approved 7-0
- August 24<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting – approved 7-0

#### **2. Cabot School Renovation Project – Public Hearing**

- Chairman Magni notified all in attendance the meeting was being recorded. Speakers will have three minutes to speak on the proposal.
- Alex Valcarce, Public Buildings Department commented that tonight's presentation is the fourth update to the Parks & Recreation Commission of the Cabot School Renovation Project. The Project Team is looking for the best solution while following the Mass School Building Authority requirements. The current plan seeks to strengthen the connection between the school and the park as well as improving student and pedestrian safety. The new Cabot School will need 90 parking spaces for its staff. There has been discussion of working with Cabot Park Village to use spaces in its lot. Mr. Valcarce introduced Leno Filippi of DiNesco Design Partnership.
- Mr. Filippi reviewed the current plans for a renovation and addition to the Cabot School and described how the design and site plan evolved. The part of the school built in the 1950's will be demolished. The building from 1929 will be kept. Currently the school has 27 thousand square feet and it needs 85 thousand square feet. Mr. Filippi reviewed the two site plan options being presented for consideration by the Parks & Recreation Commission, one showing 28 head-in parking spaces along Parkview Ave. and a 28 space parking lot, for a total of 56 parking spaces (the "56 parking space plan"). The second option eliminated the parking lot, but retained the 28 head-in parking spaces along Parkview Ave. (the "28 parking space plan"). With the exception of the parking lot, the two plans show the same relationship of the school to the park.
- Mr. Tucker thanked all for coming to the meeting. There are two sides to the parking issue, those who wish to preserve the park and open space and those who do not. The Parks & Recreation Commission mission is to preserve the park, it may sound mean spirited but it is not, the Commission is doing their job. There are other choices, such as the Cabot Park Village. The Commission does not want to give up open space and

never have it returned. The necessity of 90 parking spaces is for a majority of the staff that is not full time. Safety was a major concern in the e-mails/letters the Commission received. Restricting access to Parkview Ave. is designed to help with the safety issue but the rotary near the playground will create safety issues. Mr. Tucker suggested allowing people to park on the park side of East Side Parkway, not on the residential side, this would allow for more parking. The designers should have presented a plan with additional options besides the use of park land.

- Mr. Valcarce stated a parking study has been completed and a report will be provided. It is difficult to build a new school with no new parking close by and 90 spaces is the minimum needed. These plans propose shared use of parking and hardscape. The park has no parking and the school hardscape can be used for recreation. Included in the plan are additional improvements to be made to the park.
- Chairman Magni opened up the discussion to public comment:
- Wayne H, Westminster Ma speaking for his in-laws, Mr. & Mrs. Vestal that reside at 235 Cabot St. The Vestals have been residents for 49 years and are not in favor of the proposed changes. The changes create a negative impact on:
  - Quality of life
  - Property value

The Vestals are requesting when the decision is made take into account the real impact to the area and residents.

- Erin E, Gay Street is a member of the Cabot PTO. Cabot School is special and she loves Cabot Park and sees this proposal as an enhancement and likes the pathways across the park, the current situation is dangerous. She does not want to protect the park at the safety of the children.
- Jen A, Whitney Road echo's Erin's comments. This is a once in a century opportunity to enhance the school and the park.
- Karla H, Austin Street a former staff person at Cabot. Parkview needs to be closed. During a fire drill when bringing the children back to the school from the park at the end of the drill, cars sped down the street and she had to step in front of a car, and was almost hit, to stop it before it ran into the children.
- John M, Simpson Terrace a member of the Newtonville Historic District Commission, this proposal creates a direct connection between the school and park but is against the proposal for the following reasons:
  - Replaces green space with asphalt
  - 65 spaces are required additional parking can be on the existing streets next to city land
  - Cabot Park Village option is not shown on this proposal
  - Relocating field and utilities
  - The turnaround creates a hazard
- Natalie A, Landscape Architect, Cabot St, there are three problems/solutions;
  - Parking- this is a city not a suburb, parking is difficult

- The drop off & pick up area in proposal does not meet standards, the blue zone should be 720'
  - Closing Parkview Ave., design a pedestrian priority zone.
- Lee G, Cabot After-School, finding parking to carry heavy supplies into the building for the after school program is difficult. The staff has previously tried using Cabot Park Village to park, but when it snows the cars need to be moved immediately upon request and sometimes that is not possible if it means leaving the children unattended. Parking needs to be a safe distance to the school for the staff.
- Tom M, Parkview Ave., the Parks & Recreation Commission should have been brought into the project earlier. The Commission is being taken for granted now and will be taken for granted again.
- Andrea S, Kimball Terrace, Cabot Parent supports the 28 car lot, this allows safety for the students and park users.
- Marion B, Bridges Ave, school supporter but is against taking the park land and closing Parkview Ave.
- Daphne P, Parkview Ave., understands the proposal is to accommodate staff but the character of the neighborhood will be disrupted with the changes. Relocating the softball field will send balls into the tot lot and the swing area.
- Bob C, Eastside Parkway, loves living at the park even though his vehicles have been hit by softballs. There is plenty of parking in the neighborhood, open space is a valuable commodity and we are not making anymore.
- Alicia B, Chestnut Terrace, member of Safe Routes for Schools and is on the Mayor's Transportation Advisory Group. John M made a clear case. The circle shown on the plan creates a hazard. Use the money allocated for the parking area to enhance the walking paths around the school.
- Melissa N, Cabot teacher, and a mom, first concern is safety for the kids and the teachers need parking closer to the school.
- Lindsay O, Cabot teacher, it is very difficult to find parking especially on trash day and during snow storms.
- Beverly L, Melrose Street, Cabot employee, concern is for the safety of the children.
- Tom E, Gay Street, this is an exciting opportunity to make the right decision, it is about compromise.
- Zac H, Cabot After-School staff person, agrees with Tom E.
- Joe G, Cabot teacher, Parkview needs to be closed it is a dangerous area for the children.
- Linda C, Cabot teacher, the school is long overdue for an upgrade and this plan creates a direct connection with the park which creates safety for the children.
- Angela P, Joseph Road, Cabot parent, this proposal is a trade-off/compromise, safety vs. greenspace.
- Alice C, Otis Street, Cabot parent/After-School, the condition of the school is deplorable and needs an upgrade.

- Susan B, abutter- Lewis Street, Cabot parent and an Environmental professional. This plan is the best solution for the school and park.
- Olivia B, Ripley Street, teacher, resident, and mom supports 28 car lot plan.
- Jenn L, C teacher, close Parkview Ave, creates accessible space and is best for the children.
- Nicole C, Nahant Road, Teacher, supports the proposal.
- Karen W, Holland Street, agrees with all, there needs to be a compromise.
- Beth W, Salisbury Road, Loves schools, President of the Newton Conservators, in favor of preserving open space. Wants what is best for the school but not at the expense of parks.
- David B, Page Road, a member of the Newton Conservators, wants what is in the best interest of all residents, disappointed to see part of Cabot Park will be paved, once the green space is gone it will most likely not be given back, this sets a precedent.
- Ellen S, Blake Street, no managed parking plan please. Traffic rule breakers will continue to break the rules.
- Shoshana A, Morton Street, teacher, special education support services, supports proposal.
- Joanna J, Blake Street, Supports proposal.
- Wendy L, Lewis Street, Cabot parent supports closing Parkview Avenue.
- Dan K, Bemis Street, agrees with Mr. Tucker. Leave the park alone, create parking at Edmands Park.
- Mary Lou D, Principal at Cabot School, supports proposal. There are 78 staff, volunteers, and support service that visit the school on a daily basis at overlapping time periods. This proposal provides safety and access to the park.
- Don K, Oakwood Road, supports proposal
- Jen H, supports proposal
- Diana G, Islington Road, has been on school committee and is a park user; this is a win-win proposal.
- Robert G, Claremont, The P & R Commission guidelines state it is their policy to protect the parks, until all other reasonable options have been discussed. The Commission needs to respect their guidelines and preserve the park.
- Alderman Fuller, we are trying to do what is right for the Cabot community. The park is an active park, the additional parking proposed in this plan would benefit the park users, play equipment would be placed where you want it to go and there would be access to the hardscape and the school gym.
- Phillipe W, Bellevue Street, Cabot/Underwood supporter. Supports connection to the park, like Underwood School and Farlow Park.
- Alderman Albright commented she is disappointed this proposal has become so contentious. The community should work together to come up with a plan that works for all.

- Jean Marie P, Newton Girls Softball (NGS), there are 300 families involved in NGS and they use the softball field in Cabot Park. She wants the school to get what it needs, the little league and baseball field will not be touched but the softball field will be relocated and she would like to be involved in the design of the relocated field.
- Bud G, Eastside Parkway, Parks & Recreation Commission protects the parks, does not support parking in the park.
- Alan S, Westchester Street, we must remove emotions from facts, there are safety issues but there are other options, like raised crosswalks, etc. Does not believe other options have been looked at.
- Cate D, Mother Nature's voice, does not support the proposal.
- Kim, supports teachers, supports proposal.
- Deirdre O, there is less parking than ever, no vice-principal at the school, the building is in terrible condition, and it is time for a change. In support of proposal.
- Beth H, Kids in sports programs at Cabot Park. The way the relocated softball field is configured, balls will be hit into tot lot and onto Parkview Ave.
- Chairman Magni closed public comment and asked Commission members for their comments.
- Mr. Kastner stated the Commission standards call for all alternatives to be examined; there has been failure to look at other alternatives with this proposal.
- Mr. Neville requested Mr. Valcarce clarify taking of softball field. Mr. Valcarce stated whatever parking is not approved will be managed elsewhere, the softball field will be moved even if no parking on park land is approved.
- Mr. Tucker asked the budget for the Cabot School renovation;; Mr. Valcarce stated the budget is 45 million dollars.
- Chairman Magni asked for a motion.
- Mr. Fishman made the motion to approve the 56 parking space plan. Mr. Kastner seconded the motion and then withdrew his second of the motion; Mr. Kastner requires clarification of improvements to park.
- Mr. Valcarce stated improvements previously discussed were signage, play structures, benches, picnic tables and extending the irrigation.
- Mr. Fishman stated promises are made and then the budget gets cut when it is time to add the promised items. Mr. Fishman appreciates the members who do not want to give up park land unless there is a strict need, but each proposal must be looked at in a case by case basis. The Commission must do something about parking. If the City does not meet its promise the next time land is asked for Mr. Fishman will protest.
- Associate City Solicitor Ouida Young stated the minutes can reflect the improvements offered as well as the comments of the members.



*Mr. Fishman made the motion to support the 56 parking space plan subject to mitigation and improvements. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion. Motion failed 2-5.*

*Ms. Charkoudian made the motion to provide no park land for parking. Mr. Neville seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-4.*

*Mr. Tucker made the motion to support the 28 parking space plan.*

- Mr. Fishman asked the rationale of the motion. Mr. Tucker stated this is a compromise. This reduces the likelihood of car/kid issues, the 56 parking space plan would double the likelihood of accidents.
- Mr. Kastner stated the designer can continue to plan and the Commission can take a second look.
- Mr. Valcarce stated there will be less mitigation provided to the park with the 28 car parking plan.
- Mr. Dunker stated the City will get a better park out of this compromise.
- Chairman Magni asked for a vote on the motion:

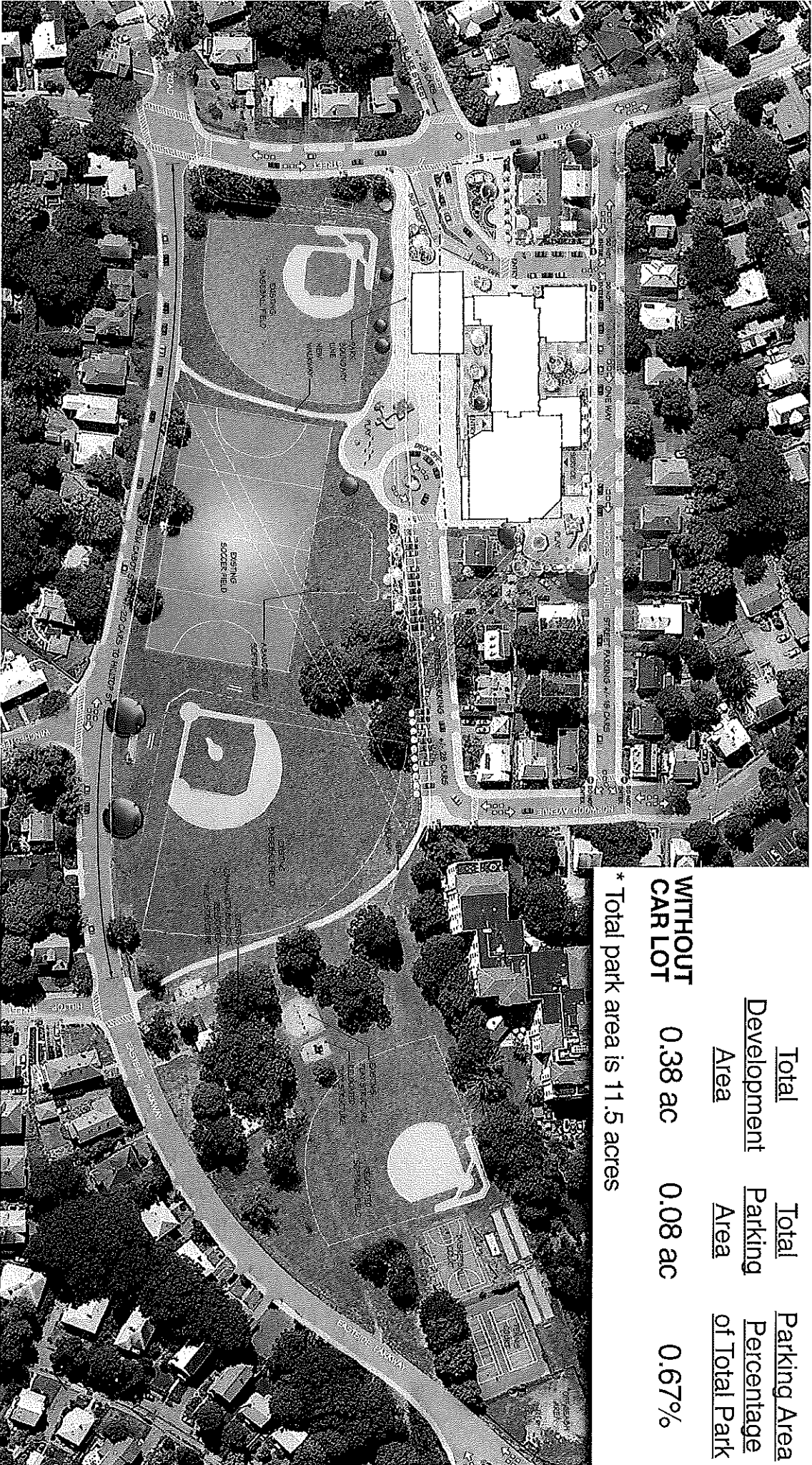
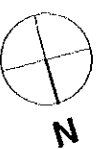
*Mr. Tucker made the motion to support the 28 space parking plan subject to mitigation and improvements. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1-1.*

## MOTION TO APPROVE THE 28 PARKING SPACE SITE PLAN (ATTACHED)

The Parks and Recreation Commission approves the following motion:

- Approves development of the edge of Cabot Park along Parkview Avenue as shown on the attached Site Plan which includes the following shared use elements on park land:
  - 28 head-in parking spaces along Parkview Avenue, with approximately ½ car length on park land;
  - A roundabout located on both school and park lands to facilitate two-way traffic on Parkview Avenue;
  - An emergency access road along the edge of the school gym;
  - Creation of a new play structure on the Park which is protected from fly balls coming from the Little League field;
  - Development of the school plaza into the edge of the Park; and
  - Creation of two paved lighted pedestrian path-ways to facilitate travel between East Side Parkway and the west side of Cabot Park.
  
- The Parks and Recreation Commission includes the following additional conditions in its motion:
  - Directs that the mature oak trees along Parkview Avenue be protected when head-in parking is developed;
  - Limits the removal of any park trees to the extent possible in the development of the Park as authorized by this motion and requires the replacement of any removed trees at locations in the Park;
  - Requests the Cabot School Design Team consider ways of enhancing use of the plaza by recreational users during non-school hours;
  - Permits the relocation of the softball field and requires its replacement with an equivalent or improved softball field at a different location in the Park; and
  - Permits the use of that portion of the Park to be developed for the shared park/school improvements to be used for temporary construction activities.
  
- This Motion to Approve is based on the “28 PARKING SPACE SITE PLAN” presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at its meeting of September 30, 2015 a copy of which is attached to this Motion. The Design Team shall return to the Parks and Recreation Commission for further review and approval if there are material modifications proposed for the Park portion of the Site Plan.
  
- The Parks and Recreation Commission further directs Parks & Recreation Commissioner DeRubeis to work with the Design Team to implement all of the above, and in particular to be sure that the relocation and upgrade to the softball field meets the needs of all users of such field, as well as to secure mitigations to the Cabot Park such as an improved soccer field consistent with the impact the construction activities will have on the Park.

# Shared Park/School Spaces ~ 28 Spaces



	<u>Total</u> Development Area	<u>Total</u> Parking Area	<u>Parking Area</u> Percentage of Total Park
WITHOUT CAR LOT	0.38 ac	0.08 ac	0.67%

\* Total park area is 11.5 acres

### **3. Nahanton Park – Tool Shed**

*Mr. Tucker made the motion to propose the resolution regarding the Nahanton Park Tool building, resolved: The Commissioner of Parks & Recreation should proceed at deliberate speed to expedite the removal of the Tool Building at Nahanton Park. We recommend that steps be taken to ensure funding and permits are available for the removal and related costs, in consultation with Josh Morse of the Public Buildings Department, with assistance from Executive, Legal, Finance, and any other City Departments as required. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion.*

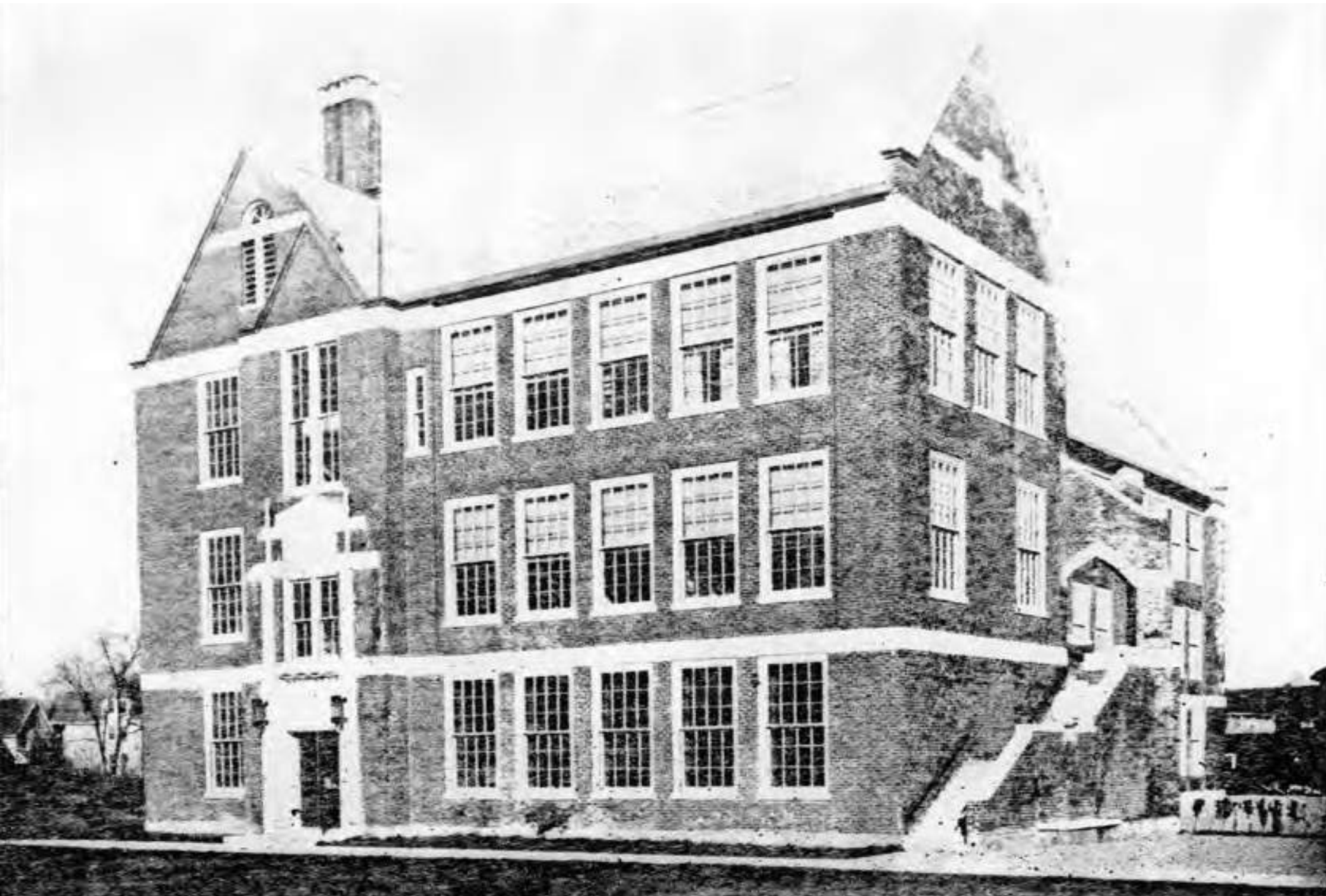
*Motion passed 7-0*

- Ms. Charkoudian asked if we are committed to commemorate the site historically. Mr. Tucker stated that has been discussed and will be a future discussion.

Meeting adjourned 11:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted

*Robin McLaughlin*

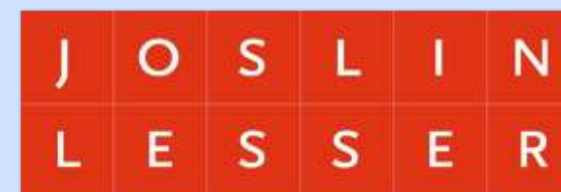


# Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

September 30, 2015



## Cabot School



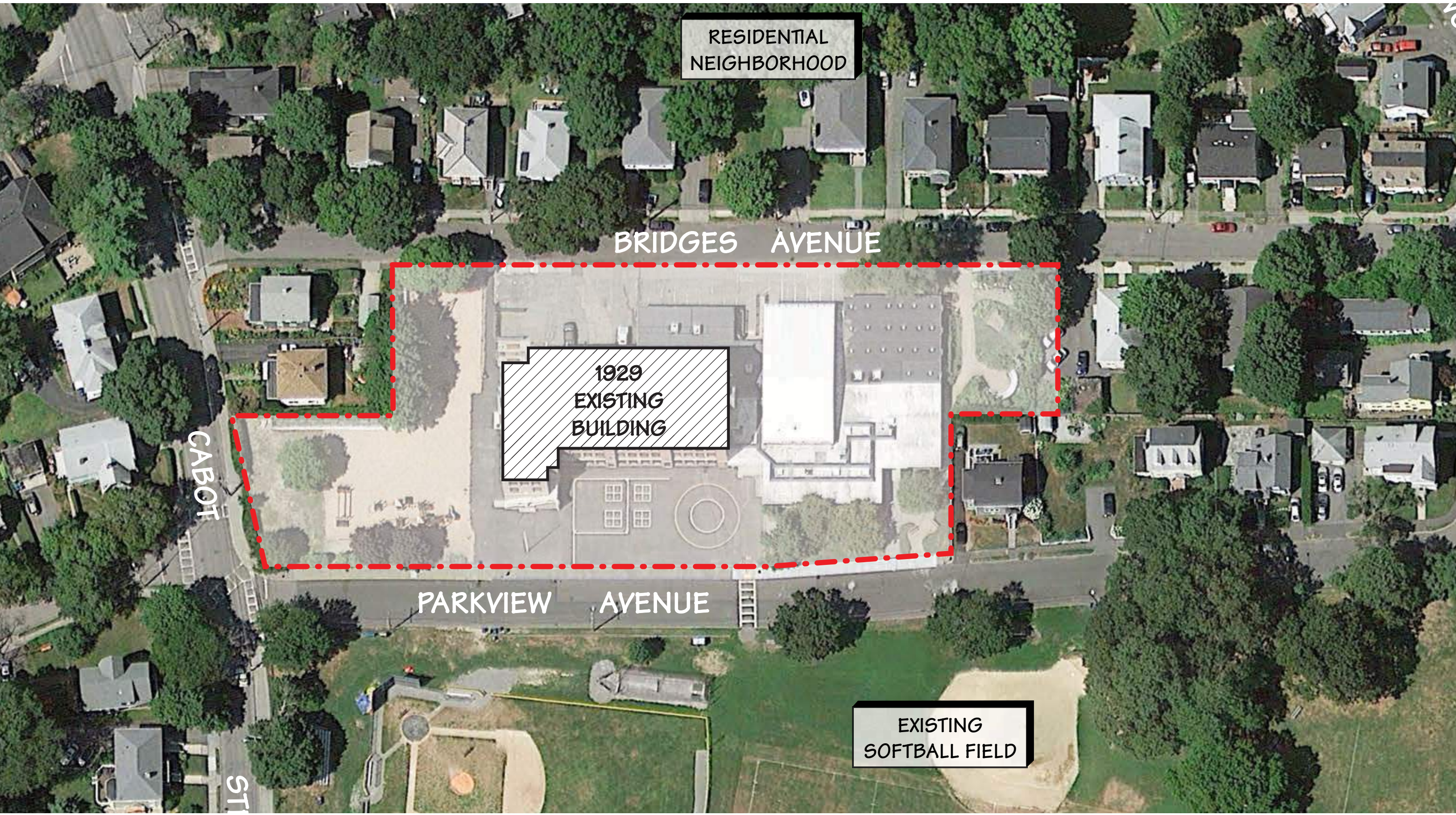
Project Management  
An N|V|5 Company

*DiNisco Design*  
**PARTNERSHIP**

# Cabot School / Cabot Park



# Cabot School / Cabot Park



RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

BRIDGES AVENUE

1929 EXISTING BUILDING

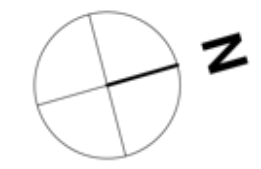
CABOT ST

PARKVIEW AVENUE

EXISTING SOFTBALL FIELD

ST

# Shared Park/School Spaces ~ 56 Spaces



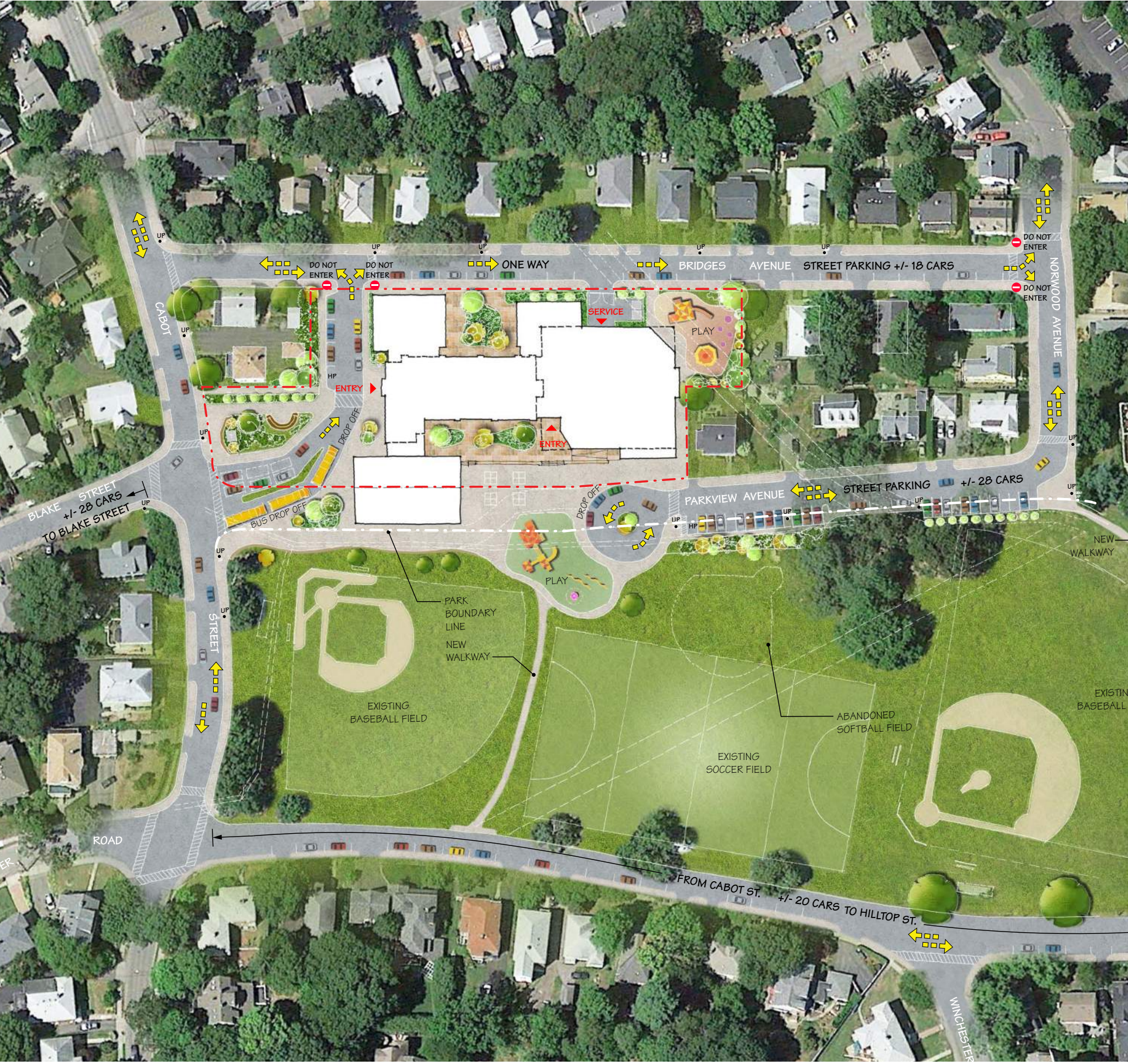
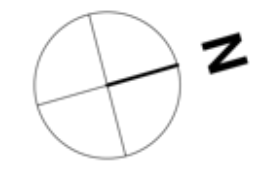
	<u>Total Development Area</u>	<u>Total Parking Area</u>	<u>Parking Area Percentage of Total Park</u>
<b>WITH 28 CAR LOT</b>	0.56 ac	0.25 ac	2.19%

\* Total park area is 11.5 acres





# Shared Park/School Spaces ~ 28 Spaces

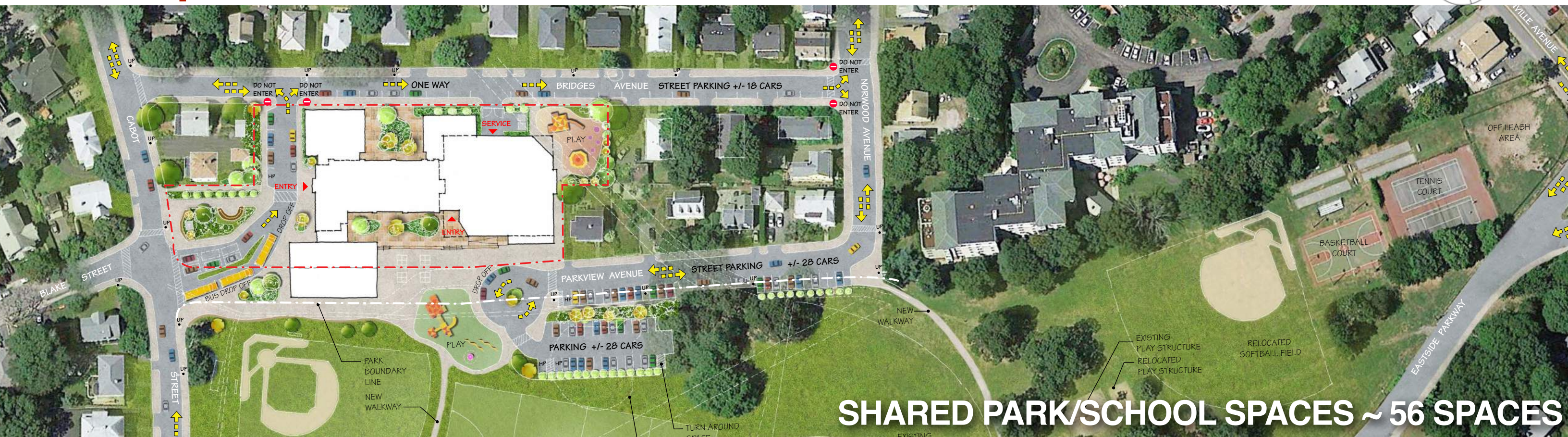


	<u>Total Development Area</u>	<u>Total Parking Area</u>	<u>Parking Area Percentage of Total Park</u>
<b>WITHOUT CAR LOT</b>	0.38 ac	0.08 ac	0.67%

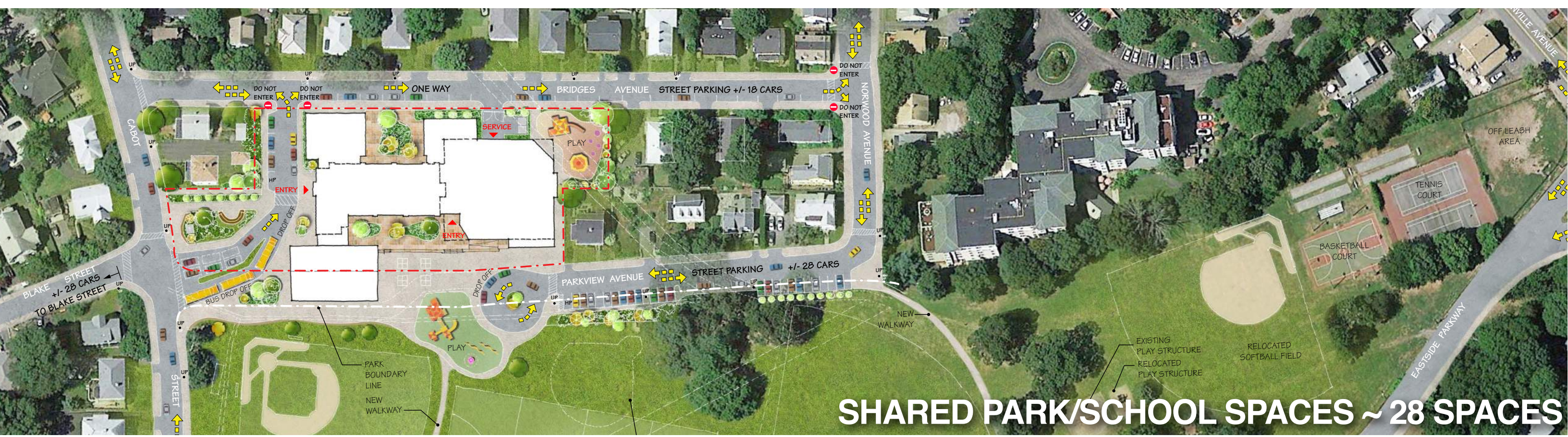
\* Total park area is 11.5 acres



# Comparison



**SHARED PARK/SCHOOL SPACES ~ 56 SPACES**



**SHARED PARK/SCHOOL SPACES ~ 28 SPACES**

# Comparison



# Perspective

View South on Parkview Ave.



# Perspective

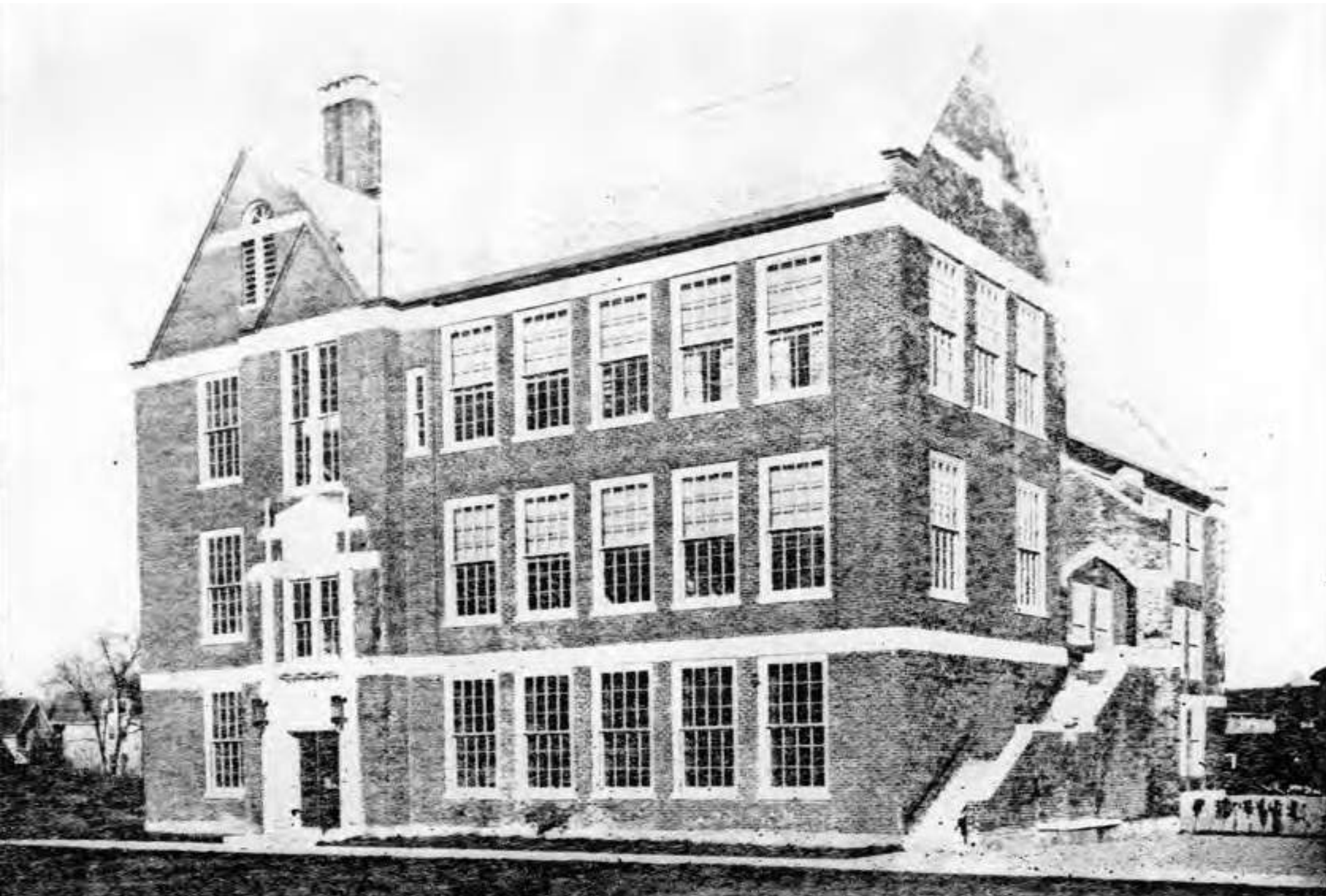
From 23 Parkview Ave.



# Perspective

View from East Side Parkway



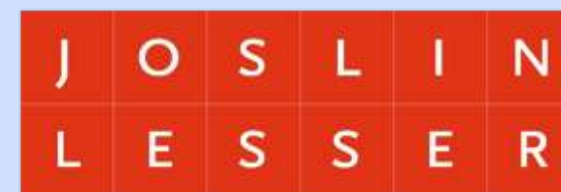


# Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

September 30, 2015



## Cabot School



Project Management  
An N|V|5 Company

*DiNisco Design*  
**PARTNERSHIP**



## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

#### Room 205 – City Hall

**7:00 p.m. –Monday, October 19, 2015**

**Attending:** Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Andy Stern, Bethel Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Don Fishman, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville

Meeting began 7:00 pm

#### **1. Meeting Minutes:**

- September 30, 2015 Meeting Minutes including detailed motion submitted by Ouida Young, Associate City Solicitor.
- Mr. Kastner asked where the construction staging area will be located. Ms. Young replied on the land where the construction will take place.
- Commissioner DeRubeis thanked Ms. Young for all of the hard work she has done for the Cabot, Zervas and Angier projects.
- Ms. Young stated the administration owes the Commission for their cooperation on these projects.

*Mr. Kastner made the motion to accept the 09-30-15 meeting minutes and detailed motion submitted by Ms. Young. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 5-0-2.*

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

- **Paddy's Road Race** – October 18<sup>th</sup> was another success and the Commissioner Thanks John and Carl O'Hara for their support of the event.
- **Harvest Fair** - was also held this past weekend
- **NSHS Tennis Courts** – closed and being renovated, anticipated to open in the spring. Temporary lines may be painted in the spring until the permanent markings are completed in July.

#### **3. Nahanton Park – Tool Shed – Update**

- Mr. Tucker reviewed the motion from the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commission voted to have the tool shed taken down at Nahanton Park. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the Newton Historical Commission will be reviewing the permit to demolish the building.
- Chairman Magni asked what the worst outcome of the Oct 22nd meeting is. Mr. Tucker stated the Historical Commission could delay demolition.
- Mr. Hillis, abutter of Nahanton Park at Winchester Street stated the Fire Department has moved out of the park, grass has been planted the area looks great.



- Commissioner DeRubeis stated he received an e-mail from Mr. Clarke about memorializing the site, which can be discussed at a later date.

#### **4. City Sign Policy (see attached)**

- Mr. Stern commented there is a plague of small signs placed in berms, parks, etc. These signs do not belong on city property especially in parks. There is a new sign policy, who determined the approved locations and process.
- Commissioner DeRubeis responded Alderman Johnson has the same concerns as Mr. Stern. Julie Ross, in the Law Department, was contacted about this issue. Some organizations place a lot of signs and forget where they put them so the signs are left out until someone else takes them down.
- Mr. Stern stated open space is degraded by these signs. What is the enforcement of this sign policy?
- Commissioner DeRubeis suggested speaking with City Solicitor Kahn.

#### **5. New Business**

- Mr. Tucker announced a meeting honoring Verne Vance taking place across the hall.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked about the tree volcanoes on Commonwealth Ave. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there is an individual planting unauthorized trees around the city.
- Ms. Wilkinson, member of the Tree Commission stated this issue also occurs with contractors, the Tree Commission is working with the contractors.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted

*Robin McLaughlin*

## **City of Newton Policy for the Regulation of Temporary, Free-Standing Placard-Type Signs on City Property**

### **Purpose:**

This policy has been enacted to: (1) establish an orderly procedure for the placement of such signs on City property; (2) provide designated, approved locations for the placement of such signs on City property; (3) establish timeframes for the removal of such signs and penalties for failure to remove them; and (4) deter the random, haphazard placement of signs on City property.

### **Policy:**

This policy applies to all City of Newton departments and entities, and non-profit entities, or individuals seeking to place temporary, free-standing placard-type signs on City property for an event or events taking place in the City of Newton. This policy applies to signs placed on *City property* and is not intended to replace or supersede any City of Newton Ordinance or regulation relative to the regulation of signs on non-City property and in open-space/recreation and public use districts. This policy does not apply to election signs or to sandwich boards.

The City has established a list of approved City locations where such signs may be placed. Each entity or individual shall be allowed to place one sign which may be no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet at each designated City location. Such signs shall not be illuminated, shall be placed in or on the ground only, and may not be permanently affixed to the ground or any City property. If the sign advertises or announces a one-time event, such sign shall not be placed before fourteen (14) days preceding the event and shall be removed no later than forty-eight (48) hours after conclusion of the event. If the sign advertises or announces a recurring event, for example, an event that occurs every Tuesday during the summer months, such sign may be placed at such locations for a maximum time period of three (3) months and shall then be removed no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the expiration of the three (3) month period. It shall be the responsibility of the entity or individual who places any such sign(s) on City property to remove such sign(s) within the designated time frames. Failure to adhere to this or any other condition of this policy may result in the entity or individual being prohibited from placing signs on City property in the future. The City reserves the right to remove and discard any sign(s) left in place longer than forty-eight (48) hours after expiration of the event, and under no circumstances will the City be responsible for retaining such sign(s). The City of Newton also reserves the right to remove and discard any sign it deems inappropriate or offensive. The City of Newton assumes no liability for signs which have been removed, stolen, damaged or defaced.

### **Designated Locations:**

Temporary free-standing placard-type signs may be placed at one or more of the following locations, with only one (1) sign allowed per event per designated location:

- Halloran Field fence on Crafts Street
- Cold Spring Park on Beacon St. on the grassy area that faces Beacon Street
- Lowell Park at the corner of Walnut and Watertown Street
- Spears Park on Washington Street
- Nahanton Park at the entrance on Nahanton Street
- At the site of the event

Such signs may not be placed on or around any traffic islands, curbs, berms or historic sites unless express permission is given by the Commissioner of Public Works.



## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

#### Room 205 – City Hall

7:00 p.m. –Monday, November 16, 2015

**Attending:** Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Andy Stern, Bethel Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Don Fishman, Peter Johnson, Sam Figler, Pat Palmer

Meeting began 7:00 pm

#### 1. Meeting Minutes - October 19, 2015 –Accepted 8-0

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

- *Newton South Tennis Courts* are undergoing a complete rebuild. These courts will be closed until early July 2016. The goal is to have the topcoat done before winter the seal coat will be done in the spring. This will impact the spring tennis season.
  - Mr. Stern inquired about the funding. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the project is funded by CIP money and is a Parks & Recreation Project on school property. The next courts to be rebuilt are McGrath Playground in FY17 and Burr Park in FY18.
  - Mr. Palmer asked if the east courts at McGrath Playground will be done, Commissioner DeRubeis stated no the east side courts have been recently crack filled with the Riteway System.
- *The Highland Playground Project* is tentatively scheduled for spring construction. Commissioner DeRubeis will appear before the Community Preservation Committee on December 10th to request one million dollars, total cost 3.3 million.
- *The Farlow Park Project* is now being managed by Elaine Gentile. The pond basin has many holes and the engineers have recommended a gunite bottom which will increase the cost.
- *Programs:*
  - Currently NNHS indoor recreation programs are running
  - School vacation camp registration is open and the department is preparing for the summer camp fair the end of January.
  - There is an increase in minimum wage in January which will increase the seasonal wages.
  - The Scholarship fund for summer camps is also running low. All who apply will receive some assistance. Mr. Stern asked if information could be circulated about making donations.
  - Over 55 programs run year round, Nancy Scammon, Director has implemented intergenerational and inter department programs.

- Special Needs Programs– Karen Peirce has been added as an assistant to Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director. This has created the opportunity for additional programs for adult special athletes.
- Programs & Services Committee will be discussing the leaf blower ban and have asked the Commissioner for the impact the ban would have on the department. There would be approximately 30% increase on the maintenance side and a 7%-10% decrease in tree removals and pruning's, Forestry uses leaf blowers for tree clean up. Mr. Palmer asked if this ban would include snow blowers, Commissioner DeRubeis replied no it would not.
- Mr. Figler asked for an update on turf fields and synthetic fields. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there was a meeting with Youth Soccer representatives. Halloran or Forte field are options for a synthetic field because they are heavily used and already lighted. The concern with synthetic fields in the infill used. Fessenden School currently used organic material on the newly constructed synthetic field; we will wait to see how the organic material compares.

### **3. New Business**

- Chairman Magni received a suggestion from Mr. Kastner, Commission Member to include commission committee reports to the agenda, such as the Farm Commission, CPC and Golf Course. All agreed this was a good suggestion, committee reports will be added to the agenda going forward.
- Chairman Magni requested the Cabot Redesign Committee be included to the Committee Updates on the agenda.
- Commissioner DeRubeis reported on Off-leash Areas: Jason Roberts has been out due to an auto accident. Officer Torres reported issues with professional dog walking companies at Hunnewell Park. OLAWG will be meeting December 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issue.
- The Angier School project is moving along. Staff and the contractor are cleaning the wooded triangle area as agreed upon.
- Mr. Stern asked for an update on Crystal Lake. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there is no update.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Robin McLaughlin*