

# Newton Parks, Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes  
Room 204 - City Hall  
7:00 p.m. – Monday, April 22, 2019



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

*Meeting began at 7:02 p.m.*

**Attending:** Chairman Magni, Vice-Chairman Tucker, Patty Kerwin Derrick, Byron Dunker, Melissa Sommer, Andy Stern, Michael Clarke, Al Cecchinelli, Sam Figler

## 1. Meeting Minutes

- March 18, 2019- approved 8-0

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

- No report- Commissioner absent from meeting

## 3. Nonantum Village Day – Public Hearing

- Event is the same as last year except for the Bounce House. Insurance has been increased and group will contact the State as instructed by the city's Licensing Department regarding the bounce house.
- No public comments

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

## 4. Sculpture Show on the Greenway - Public Hearing- Wendy Wolfe, Studios

- The sculpture show will be the same as last year. The proposed dates are June 10-Sept 12. There were no comments or concerns submitted by the abutters.
- Ms. Stapleton commented the event was a fun and wonderful event last year.
- Ellen Katz loved the show and it was accessible to all.

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

## 5. Levingston Cove Project – Update

- Mr. Gene Bolinger presented a presentation of the preferred renovation plan of Levingston Cove at Crystal Lake (overview attached). The proposal is to prevent erosion of the shoreline.
- Chairman Magni asked if this is the preferred plan, are there others to view. Mr. Bolinger stated there have been several public meetings and the information from all meetings has been put into this plan.

- Mr. Clarke asked where a disabled individual would be dropped off to access the area. Mr. Bolinger commented there is no parking on Lake Ave, but there is a cross walk leading to the area. Mr. Tucker asked if the project is required to be ADA accessible. Ms. Stapleton responded yes, Jini Fairley, the ADA Coordinator, has been attending the meetings.
- Mr. Stern commented the terrace area will be an attractive area is there any concern about the area being used for sunbathing and impeding passage. Mr. Bolinger commented a stable covering is being created to protect water quality. The area will be shaded.
- Mr. Stern stated he will not be at the next meeting for the public hearing. This proposal is not meant to address the illegal activity at Crystal Lake but maybe the Commission should not approve the proposal until the council enacts a civil fine for enforcement.
- Chairman Magni commented the Council does not share the concern of wrongful use and this proposal speaks to the environmental and accessible issues. Mr. Stern asked if illegal swimming adds to the degradation of the area?
- Mr. Clarke asked if trees were being removed? Mr. Bolinger stated there is no intention to remove healthy trees.
- Mr. Figler asked what the budget is for the project? Mr. Bolinger replied there is no established budget. Mr. Cecchinelli asked how the proposal goes to public hearing without a budget. Mr. Dunker commented the budget is not a Commission issue.
- Mr. Clarke asked the drop height from the fishing wall to the water. Mr. Bolinger replied 3'. Mr. Tucker asked how much fishing takes place at location. Ms. Stapleton commented fishing from Levingston Cove is a right of passage, the lake is stocked by the state.
- Mr. Tucker commented he lives on a lake in Maine and is encouraged to have an adequate buffer between water and land which means no mowed grass. Mr. Clarke commented blueberry bushes are a good alternative. Ms. Janice Bourque commented the space is not that big of a space and the consensus from the public was to have open space. Ms. Sonya Kurzweil stated she is in favor of a vegetated buffer zone. The proposal is trying to have both options we need to get serious with protecting the area. The beach is only used 10 weeks each year, it should be made more accessible. The fishing deck is out of character, people will use the area for swimming.
- Mr. Clarke asked if the city abides by IPM program.

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

## 6. Mike Lewitt – Tennis

- Mr. Lewitt could not attend the meeting this evening but has notified the Commissioner there will be no changes to fees, rules or regulations at the Newton Centre clay courts.

*Mr. Figler made the motion to accept the proposal; there will be no changes to fees, rules or regulations for the Newton Centre clay courts. Mr. Stern seconded the motion.*

*Motion passed 8-0.*

## 7. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee – no report
- Farm Commission
  - Chairman Magni asked if any members wanted to volunteer as the representative for the farm Commission. Mr. Cecchinelli and Ms. Kerwin Derrick will attend next meeting and discuss at next meeting.
  - Mr Figler suggested creating a committee rotation process. Chairman Magni stated it will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Commonwealth Golf Course – no report
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – no report
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG) -no report
- Athletic Fields Committee
  - Mr. Figler commented the new Highlands football field is configured in a way it can only be used for football.
- NewCAL - no report
- Policy & Procedure Review
  - Field Naming
    - Ms. Kerwin Derrick asked if there has been any progress on the policy, it is rude to keep the proposers waiting so long. Mr. Dunker commented there is a lot to consider in developing a policy and he will continue to work on the policy. Any input is appreciated.

## 8. New Business

- No new business

Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin McLaughlin  
Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary

Levingston Cove Improvements at Crystal Lake

**PREFERRED PLAN - UPDATED**

