

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes
Room 204 - City Hall
7:00 p.m. – Monday, June 17, 2019



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Meeting began at 8:00 p.m. after the Newton Youth Awards

Attending: Chairman Magni, Commissioner DeRubeis, Patty Kerwin Derrick, Byron Dunker, Al Cecchinelli, Andy Stern, Jack Neville

1. Meeting Minutes

- May 20, 2019- approved 5-0-1

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

- Commissioner DeRubeis announced he is retiring February 2020, after 32 years with the City.
- Hunnewell Park Off-Leash Area
 - Issues with professional dog walkers outside the designated off-leash area. Neighbors attended OLAWG meeting for a solution. The OLAWG is proposing extending the current area with fencing to make the existing area larger and would allow a pathway for passage through the park for other park users. Chairman Magni stated a public hearing is required for this request.
- Newton Highlands Playground irrigation pump was hit by lightning a new pump has been installed.

~~3. 244 Dudley Rd Right of Way request Sewer Extension Canceled~~

- Law Dept determined the resident has right of way down the paved road with appropriate permits and discussion with Parks, Recreation & Culture (P, R & C) Commissioner. 244 Dudley Rd abuts the P, R & C Administrative offices.

4. Open Meeting Law – Maura O’Keefe, Law Department

- <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/05/23/2017-guide-with-ed-materials-revised-1-30-18.pdf>
- All requirements for the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law can be found at the link above. Including rules for Executive Session.
- Ms. O’Keefe reviewed the open meeting laws and the requirements to go into Executive Session.
- Deliberation of how a policy applies to a person is a reason to go into Executive Session.
- Be sure not to overuse Executive Session, apply the requirements case by case.
- Executive Session minutes will be posted, initially, with the bare bones, then later the details will be published. No tape recorder is used in Executive Session.

5. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee
 - No Report
- Farm Commission

- Ms. Kerwin Derrick asked if the farm is P, R & C land. Commissioner commented it may be conservation land.
- Ms. Kerwin Derrick reported there is a big issue with mold in the farmhouse.
- The farm is going to UMASS/Mt. Ida to use their land
- Commonwealth Golf Course
 - Next week is a meeting to discuss the rehab of the maintenance building
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
 - BETA Group made the first presentation for the design of the proposed Norumbega off-leash area.
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
 - Levingston Cove proposal will be presented to the Conservation Commission
- Athletic Fields Committee
 - Discussing field rotation, starting at Weeks Field
- NewCAL
 - No report
- Policy & Procedure Review
 - Field Naming
 - Work in progress. Focus on procedure, broad based, longevity is key.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis commented there is never just one person, many people contribute. A wall of honor at the sites would allow recognition for all who contribute, the question is who decides what names go up on the wall.
 - Chairman Magni stated the policy may have to go before the City Council. In the past the City Council has voted no on naming rights.

6. New Business

- Mr. Cecchinelli wanted to mention Mark Kelly and Karen Peirce and the great job they did at the Special Athletes Connecticut Games last weekend. They won a gold medal it was a great time.
- Harry Sanders from the Friends of Edmands Park reported BC snow removal operation blew the snow into the park and a lot of rubber infill ended up in the stream. The Commissioner will speak with them.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary