

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 211 - City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, October 21, 2019



Attending: Chairman Magni, Vice-Chairman Tucker, Commissioner DeRubeis, Patty Kerwin Derrick, Al Cecchinelli, Melissa Sommer, Jack Neville, Sam Figler

1. Meeting Minutes

- September 16, 2019 minutes approved 7-0

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

- This past weekend there were two major events, Paddy's Road Race and Harvest Fair. As usual, Mark Kelly did a great job with Paddy's Road Race. This was the first year Paula Gannon managed the Harvest Fair and did a great job.
- Met with Claire Rundelli from Conservation regarding the NSHS lights. Conservation does not have a problem with digging holes on the conservation land, they were more concerned about the light spillage, the group explained there is minimal to no spillage with the new technology. Parks, Recreation & Culture Department will be responsible for digging the holes, the NSHS Booster Club is raising money for the lights.
- Chairman Magni asked about the possible lawsuit from abutters. Currently there is no lawsuit, the group has been meeting with neighbors to work out the issues.
- Kate Nyquist a resident of Waban has proposed a tot lot at the intersection of Waban Ave and Alban Rd on the old MWRA land now owned by the city. The Law Department stated a change of use would have to go before the Council. Mayor Fuller will be visiting the site in the next couple of weeks.
- Peter Mazzapica has been hired as the Off-leash Recreation Specialist (OLRS). He will begin working the week of October 28. The focus will be Hunnewell off-leash area. Mr. Tucker asked if the Animal Control Officer is receptive to the OLRS. Commissioner DeRubeis responded yes.
- Meeting with a Crystal Lake Conservator representative to discuss bathhouse plan. The bath house is on the CIP list but there is no consensus on the building size or whether it is a seasonal or 12-month building.
- Each year there is a request to clear the brush from around the waters edge at the Waban Hill Reservoir. This is a \$10k-\$12k project, that is not budgeted.

3. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee – No report
- Farm Commission – Ms. Kerwin Derrick reported the Farm is doing well, finances are good.
- Commonwealth Golf Course – refurbishing the 6th tee for \$125k. The maintenance building has not been approved
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
- Athletic Fields Committee
- NewCAL- Public meeting this Thursday, the Newton Centre triangle location is back on the table
- Policy & Procedure Review
 - Field Naming-Commissioner DeRubeis spoke with Chuck Proia who also agrees a wall or plaque at park locations is a good idea to honor individuals

4. New Business

- Chairman Magni asked the public attending the meeting if they had any comments
- Diane Smith stated she is a senior and is representing 10 of her friends, Albemarle is not a good choice for a senior center. She recently took a day trip with the Over 55 group and the bus pick up was at Albemarle. The parking area was filled with cars. Ms. Smith also thanked the Commissioner for cleaning up the rogue plantings along the road.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary