



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Room 204- City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, January 22, 2018

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner DeRubeis, Byron Dunker, Peter Johnson, Andy Stern, Jack Neville, Pat Palmer

Meeting Began 7:04

1. Meeting Minutes-December 18, 2017 Accepted 6-0-1

(Stern not present at December meeting)

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

- Highlands Project- two neighbors were flooded during last week's rain. Weston & Sampson and the City Engineers are looking into what is causing the flooding.
- Camp Fair is Sunday January 28th 12-4 at NNHS.
- Mr. Stern asked if the current retirements have affected the department. Commissioner DeRubeis commented the Open Space position has been posted. This position started as a part-time Adopt-A Space position which morphed into a full time project management position. The position is currently posted as a part-time position. The Commissioner is planning to request the position become a full time position. Bobby Valente, Working Foreman-Carpenter, was with the department for 50 years; a lot of institutional knowledge has been lost when he retired. Peter Forte, Mechanic, performed many other tasks for the department. The Commissioner is currently in budget meetings. All 4 positions should be filled, but may be restructured.
- Fields: sub soil was placed on fields this past fall; currently the fields are wet and cannot be worked on.
- In January there were three days of ice skating on the Charles River at the Cove. Currently the area is unsafe for skating.

3. Committee Reports

- **Community Preservation Committee** – Mr. Dunker will be attending his first meeting as P & R Commission representative tomorrow night. The Crescent Street project is on the agenda. Commissioner DeRubeis commented there has been push back from the community on the housing portion of the project, there has been no push back on the park portion of the project.
- **Farm Commission**- no report
- **Cabot Redesign Committee** – no report

- **Commonwealth Golf Course** – Mr. Neville commented there is a committee meeting tomorrow night. On the Agenda is the new maintenance building and the upcoming bid for golf course management. Mr. Stern asked if the department receives money from the golf course. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the department and Conservation receive \$25K per year and the Executive Office receives \$15k per year. Mr. Stern would like to review the management RFP. Ms. McLaughlin will forward the info to Mr. Stern. Chairman Magni stated if this is not a park why is the Commission involved? Commissioner DeRubeis commented it is considered City Open Space if the City took over management it would fall under the P & R Department.
- **Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)** – no report
- **Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)** – January 30th Weston & Sampson will be presenting the proposal for Levingston Cove to the group. Mr. Stern has requested the draft ordinance started a few years ago from the Law Department.
- **Athletic Fields-** The working group met at the beginning of January. Information has been requested of the users. The information requested was the times they use the fields to determine better allocation of the fields. Sheila Butts, previous employee of the department, is back part-time to handle permits this season.
- **Nahanton Park Committee** – no report

4. New Business

- **Elections**

Mr. Stern made the motion to nominate Arthur Magni as Chairman. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Stern made the motion to nominate Richard Tucker as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Magni seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:43 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Commission Secretary