



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 204 - City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, February 26, 2018

In Attendance: Chairman Magni, Vice Chairman Tucker, Commissioner DeRubeis, Andy Stern, Byron, Dunker, Peter Johnson, Michael Clarke, Jack Neville, Sam Figler

Meeting began 7:00 pm

1. **Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2018-** Approved 8-0
2. **Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
 - Personnel:
 - Open Space Coordinator-currently interviewing
 - Working Foreman Carpenter position is posted
 - Motor Repair Mechanic will be filled in the next fiscal year
 - Elaine Gentile has retired
 - Tom Cahill is retiring this spring. We are hoping to hire replacement while Tom is still working to help with the transition. Chairman Magni asked who would be issuing permits. Commissioner DeRubeis mentioned Sheila Butts; a previous employee, is in part-time, managing the permits.
 - Budget:
 - Currently working on goals & objectives and discussing restructuring. Mr. Stern asked if there was any free money due to lack of snow. The Commissioner replied no there is no free money.
 - Sculpture Gift:
 - Antoinette Prien Schultze created the "Couplet", 2000, granite, steel, glass, 51" x 49" x 37 sculpture that remains on City Hall property from the art show last summer. Antoinette would like to donate the sculpture to the City and keep it where it is currently located. Chairman Magni reminded the Commission that City Hall grounds were Olmstead designed grounds and should remain natural.
 - Mr. Stern commented by accepting this gift, the Commission would be setting a precedent.
 - The Commission members respectfully declined the gift and suggested a different location should be found for the sculpture.
 - Crescent Street Project:
 - Housing unit cost concern has the project on hold.
 - Crystal Lake
 - Weston and Sampson are developing a plan for the renovation of Levingston Cove. Mr. Stern asked if the Commission would see the plan. Commissioner DeRubeis commented yes, Weston & Sampson will present the plan to the Commission once the plan is complete.
3. **Nonantum Village Day–June 3, 2018-Informational Meeting**
 - Terry Sauro of the Nonantum Neighborhood Association has submitted a proposal for the 7th annual Nonantum Village Day event at Colletti-Magni Park on June 3rd from 11am-3pm.

- Chairman Magni asked if anything has changed since last year. Ms. Sauro replied there are no changes. This year the Association is honoring young seniors, 90-100 years old.

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

- Chairman Magni suggested the Commission consider waiving the informational meeting for recurring events such as the Nonantum Village Day, and directly schedule the public hearing once the proposal is submitted to the department.

4. Re-naming Newton Highlands Football Field - Paul Pasquarosa

- Mr. Pasquarosa is requesting the Commission rename the football field at the Newton Highlands Playground after his brother Nick Pasquarosa.
- Mr. Pasquarosa provided a history and reason for the request. After Nick Pasquarosa graduated high school he became an assistant head coach and eventually a head coach for the Pop Warner program. Newton Highlands was the designated home field. Nick Pasquarosa maintained the field before the Parks & Recreation Department took over the maintenance. A second franchise was created for Pop Warner under Nick's leadership, which led to the creation of the Newton Athletic Association, which still flourishes to this day.
- Mr. Neville confirmed the information provided and commented that Nick Pasquarosa is a stand-up guy.
- Mr. Stern asked if the field was already named. Commissioner DeRubeis will have to confirm if the field is already named. It would be similar to Albemarle Field, the baseball fields are all named after different people. Chairman Magni suggested verifying if the field is already named. Mr. Clarke confirmed the football field is not named; the baseball field is named Whitimore Field.
- Mr. Clarke asked when a field is named a sign is not usually provided, would Mr. Pasquarosa provide a sign. Mr. Pasquarosa replied yes, maybe put a sign on the new scoreboard. Mr. Dunker asked if a plaque would be acceptable in place of renaming the field.
- Commissioner DeRubeis suggested the Commission review all of the fields.

Mr. Clarke made the motion to move the request to a public hearing in April. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

5. Committee Reports

- *Community Preservation Committee – Mr. Dunker*
 - Crescent Street per unit price issue remains under discussion
 - 52 Units at Jackson Garden, no building on park land
- *Farm Commission – no report*
- *Cabot Redesign Committee – no report*
 - Chairman Magni asked if this item should be removed from the Committee report list. The Commissioner commented the play structures are up next so the item should stay on the agenda.
- *Commonwealth Golf Course*
 - Meeting tomorrow night

- *Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)*
 - Commissioner DeRubeis reported there were two dog bites at Edmands Park.
 - The Norumbega off-leash area proposal will be presented to the Conservation Commission once the new Open Space Coordinator is hired.
- *Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)*
 - Mr. Stern met with James Jampel to discuss Crystal Lake. Mr. Jampel is concerned about possible fencing with the renovation of Levingston Cove and he has a very ambitious detailed long range plan to enhance the free experience at Crystal Lake.
 - Mr. Stern inquired about the status of the bio island discussions. Commissioner DeRubeis is meeting with Melinda Tupper at NSHS who has a proposal for a small bio island project.
- *Athletic Fields Committee*
 - There is a meeting scheduled March 6th with all members. The members will be providing information on their current needs.
- *Nahanton Park Committee*
 - Mr. Clarke is working on the interpretive trail sign. Not much else is going on. Chairman Magni asked if this item should be removed from the Committee Reports, all in attendance agreed this item should be removed.

6. New Business

- Mr. Figler commented that he is concerned about the lack of process for field renaming. Mr. Dunker agreed and commented it is an uncomfortable position to be in. The Commission loses the chance to name a field after one meeting for a request. Other options should be made available such as a plaque or a bench with a plaque. Mr. Neville agreed. Mr Tucker asked if there is a term to renaming a field. Mr. Stern commented this request has created discussion for detailed criteria and creating a better process, the Commission should take a step back and review. All members in attendance agreed. Chairman Magni requested Mr. Pasquerosa be notified his request is on hold pending review of the criteria and process for renaming of a field and add this item for discussion to the *Committee Report* Agenda item.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary