



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 204 - City Hall

8:00 p.m. – Monday, September 17, 2018

In Attendance: Chairman Magni, Vice-Chairman Tucker, Commissioner DeRubeis, Byron Dunker, Peter Johnson, Sam Figler, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian

Meeting began 7:00 pm

- 1. Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2018- Approved 5-0-1** (Charkoudian absent in June)

- 2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
 - The department had a successful summer camp and swim season
 - Arts in the Parks - Jeannie Smith is resigning. Her last day will be October 14 after the Harvest Fair
 - 1294 Centre St – Public Building Department is renovating, when the renovations are complete P & R will begin programming at the building.
 - Farmers Market is open through October and has been having a great summer
 - Paddy's Road race is scheduled for October 14 and registration is close to full already
 - Ward School fence has been replaced
 - Projects:
 - Farlow Park: waiting for completion of bridge. Grand re-opening ceremony sometime in October
 - McGrath Tennis Courts and Off-leash Area project: 99% complete, just finishing up a few small items
 - Heartbreak Hill Park at Waban Hill Reservoir project- In discussion to put out an RFP for possibly phase I and phase II
 - Starbucks in Auburndale: when the street was redesigned a small pocket park was created, so planning and a bench were installed
 - Newton Corner Islands: cleaned up and planting are being added. When the clean-up was done, granite walls were discovered on the island.
 - Cold Spring Park: new excer-trail equipment has been installed. Working on trail improvements and re-routing a drain near Zervas School that is washing away the trail
 - Bullough's Pond: The BPA is installing a plaque and benches on the cement foundation where the building used to be.
 - Underwood School Playground: ADA requirements have changed regarding accessible surfacing. Stephanie Lapham located rubberized grass mats and has installed the mats at Underwood Playground. Jini Fairley, the City ADA Coordinator, has approved the mats. We are testing them now and if they work they will be used in other locations at a significant cost savings.

- Nahanton Park: A group is meeting with Law Department to complete the Conservation restriction. Michael Clark completed the sign memorializing the Alms House. The sign was installed by Parks & Recreation.
- Newton Centre Tennis Courts: The Friends of Newton Tennis submitted a proposal for a windscreen at the Newton Centre tennis courts. The windscreen will reduce the distractions outside the courts for players, but still allow spectators to see inside the courts. The Friends of Newton Tennis are raising the funds to purchase the windscreen and have been working with Mike Lewitt. Tom Freidman, present tonight, is the person who submitted the proposal. Chairman Magni asked Mr. Freidman if there is a guarantee on the windscreen and what type of maintenance is required. Mr. Freidman stated there is a 5-year guarantee, but the screen would come down in the fall and go back up in the spring. Mr. Freidman is reaching out to the manufacturer to find out what type of maintenance and storage is required.

3. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee
 - Crescent St housing proposal met resistance. A new proposal will be a long process
- Farm Commission
 - A Commission representative needs to be appointed.
 - Commission Secretary will provide information for members to review so an appointment can be made during the October meeting.
- NEWCAL
- Cabot Redesign – no report
- Commonwealth Golf Course – no report
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
 - Waiting for a M.O.U. to be signed with the Conservation Commission to move forward with the Design RFP for a new off-leash area.
 - Hunnewell Park- discussion on expanding the off-leash area
 - The proposal for a site on DCR property in Chestnut Hill is off the table.
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
 - Levingston Cove project is on-going, the working group will meet to review new designs created from the suggestions provided at the community meetings
- Athletic Fields Committee
 - Mr. Figler has proposed dedicated Lacrosse space at McGrath Park. This would eliminate two softball fields
- Policy & Procedure Review
 - Field Naming
 - Chairman Magni asked the sub-committee to present suggestions for the Field Naming Policy. There have been several requests for individuals. Commissioner DeRubeis stated

it is difficult determining the criteria for a policy. Chairman Magni asked if the committee could check the policies of other cities and towns. Commissioner suggested a contribution wall. Chairman Magni requested some suggestions for discussion at the next meeting.

- Sign Policy Committee

4. New Business

- Commissioner DeRubeis shared the tragic news of the unexpected passing of the Human Resource Director Karen Glasgow.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary