

# Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### Room 204 - City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, October 15, 2018



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

**Attending:** Chairman Magni, Vice-Chairman Tucker, Commissioner DeRubeis, Byron Dunker, Andy Stern, Sam Figler, Jack Neville, Peter Johnson

#### 1. Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2018

- Approved 6-0-1 (Stern absent September Meeting)

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

- Yesterday, Paddy's Road Race had over 2,000 runners. Carl & John O'Hara are great partners of this event.
- Harvest Fair took place this past weekend. Jeannie Smith will be leaving at the end of the month. Paula Gannon has been hired in her place. The Mayor presented Jeannie with a commendation on Sunday.
- Ricky Paglia will be managing Newton North Indoor Recreation. Currently he is in training with Tom Cahill.
- Gath Pool is on the CIP list. Going forward, until the pool is replaced, a significant amount of money will be required to keep the pool running.
- *Newton Highlands Project:* Fields look good, the field is holding water around the edges. Met with Weston & Sampson today, possibly the drains are too high. Aeration and verti-quake of the field may help the water to be absorbed. Mr. Stern asked if the retainage would cover any possible costs. Commissioner DeRubeis stated it depends on what would have to be done.
- *Farlow Park Pond and Bridge Project:* The project is done. There will be a ribbon cutting on October 28.
- *Norumbega Off-Leash Area Proposal:* Currently out to bid. Chairman Magni asked if the OLA would be like the Cabot OLA. Commissioner DeRubeis stated it will be fenced with the use of the existing natural elements.
- *Heartbreak Hill Park at Waban Hill Reservoir Bid:* Currently in discussion. Going before Historic Commission. The pump house is considered historical.

#### 3. Jackson Road/NHA proposal – Informational – Alan J. Schlesinger

- The Newton Housing Authority (NHA) received a comprehensive permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals in August 2018 to construct a building containing 55 units of elderly housing at John F. Kennedy Circle. The project site will be accessed via the City's land on Jackson Road. The NHA is proposing to use the land shown on (attached) plans for access and staging during construction. At the end of the

construction project, the NHA proposes to install plantings, sidewalks and benches to be enjoyed by the public. A 36" tree is being saved and the invasive plants are being removed. NHA would maintain plantings for a period of one year following the installation.

- Mr. Stern asked how much park land is in the space. Mr. Schlesinger stated about 5–8 thousand square feet.
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented this is a win-win proposal. This is an area the department already maintains. There is a lot of activity in the area with Aquinas, Lincoln Eliot School and the housing units close by. All will enjoy the renovated space.

*Mr. Figler made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0*

#### **4. Committee Reports**

- Community Preservation Committee
  - Currently no requests for funding
- Farm Commission
  - Elect a Commission representative – on hold until next meeting
- Cabot Redesign Committee
  - No Report
- Commonwealth Golf Course
  - Sterling Golf Mgmt was awarded the management contract. A few changes were made to the contract. Mr. Figler asked if an annual report should be requested for review by the Commission.
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
  - Working on Norumbega RFP and discussing options at Hunnewell Park
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
  - Meeting in November
- Athletic Fields Committee
- NewCAL
  - Weekly meetings and site visits
- Policy & Procedure Review
  - Field Naming
    - Difficult to develop a policy. There are so many options.
    - Commissioner DeRubeis recommended a commemorative wall.
    - Mr. Dunker will create a written draft for review
  - Sign Policy
    - No Report

#### **5. New Business**

- No New Business

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robin McLaughlin*

Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary

**Jackson Road/NHA Proposal**

