



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Cafeteria- City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, April 24, 2017

Attending: Richard Tucker, Vice Chairman, Commissioner DeRubeis, Andrew Stern, Peter Johnson, Byron Dunker, Pat Palmer, Michael Clarke, Jack Neville

Meeting Began 7:05 pm

1. **Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2017- approved 7-0**
2. **Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
 - Fields- leagues have been moved back a week due to wet conditions
 - Newton Serves – this weekend coming up
 - Newton Highlands Project – Commissioner attended Finance Committee meeting requesting an additional \$185,000. Finance Committee approved the request. Mr. Dunker asked if this request includes the building. Commissioner DeRubeis replied no, it does not.
 - Zervas School path from Cold Spring Park- The department is going to clean up and replace the current Excerptail equipment. The Zervas School would like to add a walking path to the school from the trail to allow kids to walk to school through the park which is a concern.
 - Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator would like to create a sensory oriented pathway with grant funding, possibly at the Auburndale Cove.
3. **Nonantum Village Day – Public Hearing**
 - Nonantum Village day is scheduled for June 4. The street will be blocked, and there will be a 5K Race in honor of Laura Foley who passed away running a race leaving two children. This year's event will also be honoring the Newton Fire Department. Everything is free except for food. There are two \$1,000.00 scholarships to be awarded to high school students.
 - There were no comments or concerns from abutters.

Mr. Stern made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Neville seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
4. **St. Mary of Carmen Festival – Public Hearing**
 - This is the 82nd year of the festival. The dates are July 12-16. The same management company will be managing the festival. All money goes to charity.
 - There were no comments or concerns from abutters.

Mr. Palmer made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Newton Tennis – Clay Court Fees, Rules and Regulations – Mike Lewitt

- Mr. Lewitt presented the 2017 rates and rules stating there are no changes this year.
- Mr. Stern asked if there should be an increase to assist with maintenance. Mr. Lewitt stated it is difficult to raise fees when there are free courts available.
- Mr. Stern asked how many non-residents are members. Mr. Lewitt replied 15-18% from Waltham, Needham and Boston.
- Mr. Lewitt commented parking has been an issue due to the construction of Fire Headquarters. Mr. Stern, who lives on Tyler Terrace, has been notified the project should be completed by the end of June.

Mr. Stern made the motion to accept the Newton Centre Clay Court rules and regulations as presented. Mr. Neville seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0

6. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee
 - No report
- Farm Commission
 - No report
- Cabot Redesign Committee
 - Commissioner is meeting with Public Building to discuss softball field
- Commonwealth Golf Course
 - Meeting tomorrow night at 7pm at the golf course
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
 - Working on a proposal for a fenced area at Norumbega Park in corner near Comm. Ave and the Marriott Hotel
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
 - Bio islands are being researched, meeting next month
- Nahanton Park Committee
 - Hoping to complete the trail with an Eagle Scout. Eagle Scouts are required to complete a community service project to graduate. Commissioner DeRubeis suggested contacting Judy Dore she manages all Eagle Scout projects.
 - Mr. Tucker visited the Community Gardens and noticed there is space for additional garden plots. Commissioner DeRubeis commented the department would be happy to add additional garden plots, but water is an issue.

7. New Business

- Condolences to Peter Kastner, whose wife passed away this past week.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Commission Secretary