



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

### Room 204- City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, May 15, 2017

**Attending:** Arthur Magni, Chairman, Commissioner DeRubeis, Andrew Stern, Peter Johnson, Peter Kastner, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Michael Clarke, Sam Figler (via phone)

*Meeting Began 7:00 pm*

1. **Meeting Minutes - April 24, 2017- approved 7-0**
2. **Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
  - A new Camp/Program Manager has been hired
  - Preparing for swim and camp season
  - Funding for camp scholarships is down this year.
  - Crystal Lake will be required to have life jackets on hand due to Christians Law. And a new procedure for identifying swimmers who have passed the swim test is being implemented at Gath Pool and Crystal Lake.
  - Newton Highlands Project is about 52% complete.
  - Waban Common is in phase I and the neighbors will be fundraising for any other design/construction in phase II.
  - Forestry – Ms. Charkoudian asked why the trees were being removed from Adams Street. The Commissioner replied the sidewalks are being made accessible; trees will be replanted when sidewalks are complete.
  - Maintenance- fields have been tough to maintain due to all of the rain.
  - Beautification- working on 144 planters to be planted and delivered to locations by Memorial Day.
3. **Bridge at Nahanton Park – Informational presentation- Chris Hepburn**
  - The Friends of Nahanton Park propose to build a short bridge across the small intermittent creek at the end of Florrie's Path. This is needed to reinvigorate the trail along the Charles River that connects to the upper garden area. If completed this will help to make a nice loop trail that can be used by walkers, bird watchers, etc. (see attached)
  - Mr. Hepburn stated the proposal was presented and accepted by the Conservation Commission in April.
  - Mr. Clarke asked the material to be used for the bridge. Mr. Hepburn replied Brazilian wood with concrete support blocks. Mr. Clarke asked if the Brazilian wood was more expensive. It is more expensive but lasts longer.

- Ms. Schein asked if the footings should be deeper. Mr. Hepburn replied 18” depth creates fewer disturbances to the area.

*Mr. Clarke 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
  - No report
- Farm Commission
  - No report
- Cabot Redesign Committee
  - Softball field will be repurposed to opposite side from where it is currently located sometime after August.
- Commonwealth Golf Course
  - No report
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
  - Presented a proposal for Norumbega Park to the Conservation Commission. Ray Dunetz will be designing the area and keeping the area natural.
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
  - No meetings until June.
- Nahanton Park Committee
  - Mr. Clarke presented the first draft of verbiage to be used at the historic site of the Alms House
  - Mr. Hepburn asked the status of the Conservation Restriction. Commissioner DeRubeis stated it is on his desk for final review.

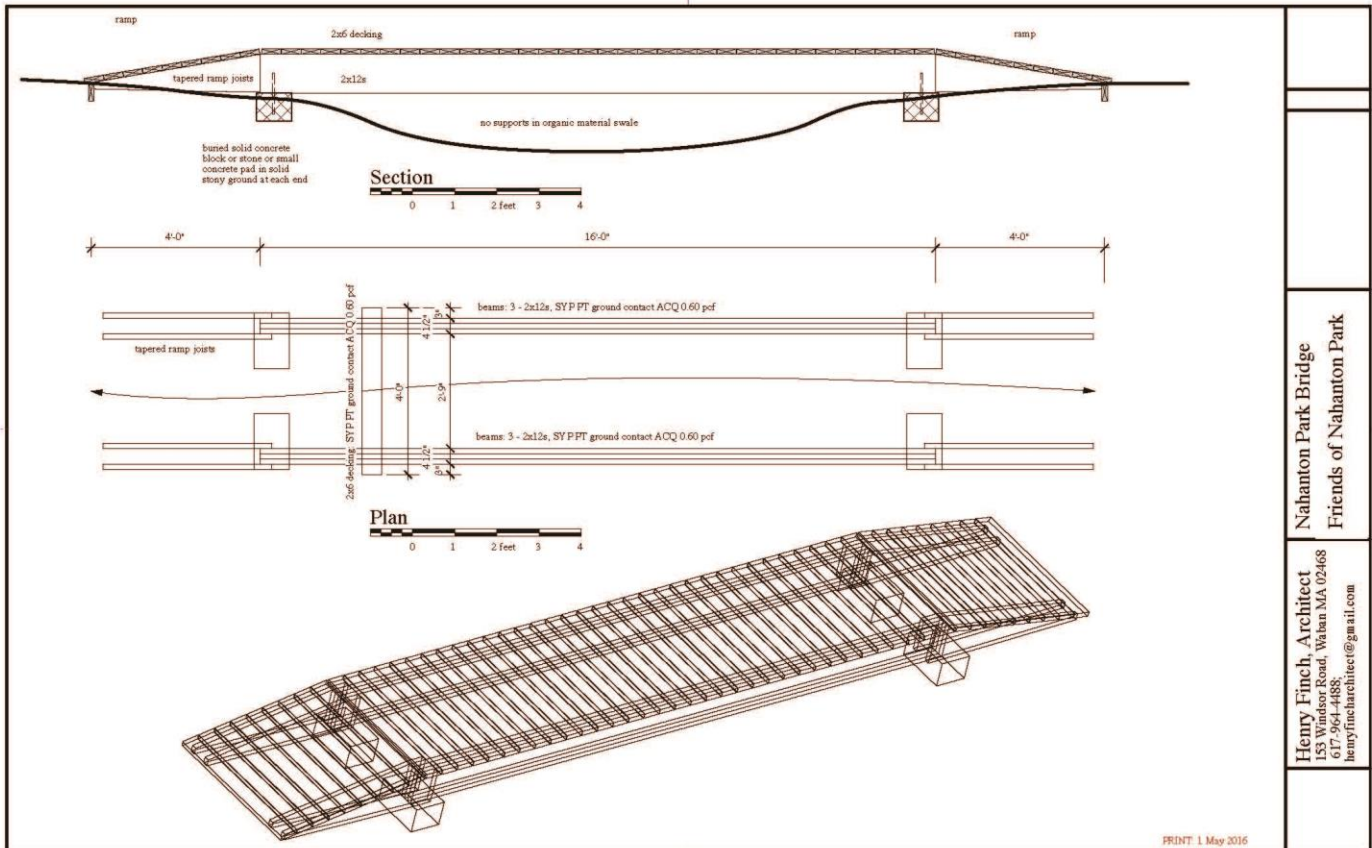
#### **5. New Business**

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Robin McLaughlin*

Commission Secretary



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Nahanton Park Bridge  
Friends of Nahanton Park

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