



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Cafeteria- City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, October 16, 2017

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner DeRubeis, Andrew Stern, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Peter Johnson, Sam Figler, Jack Neville

Meeting Began 7:05

1. **Meeting Minutes - September 18, 2017** - approved 7-0
2. **Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
 - Paddy's Road Race was a success. There were ~ 2,400 participants in the race. Mark Kelly did a great job organizing and managing the race.
 - Harvest Fair was also this past weekend. Linda Plaut has been out; Jeannie Smith did a great job organizing the event. Next up is Halloween window painting.
 - The Badges and Balls event was held last Friday at Newton Centre Playground. The event was well attended and everyone seemed to have fun.
 - The camp managers are already planning the Summer Camp Fair. The date is January 28, 2018.
 - Projects:
 - Highlands Playground: Going well, field will not be available for athletics until the spring. The Mayor would like to have the ribbon cutting in November.
 - Farlow: Cost over runs stopped the project. The over runs have been addressed and the contractor is back to work.
 - Zervas/Cold Spring Park Path: There were concerns that Winslow Road would have parking issues due to the new path. The department has not received any complaints. Josh Morse, Public Buildings Commissioner stated he visited the site during drop off and pick up times for school and there were no issues.
 - Pelligrini Wall notice to proceed has been issued.
 - Playgrounds: Underwood School and Davis Playground are in progress this month
 - Forestry has a plan to plant 500 trees beginning in November. This will be the most planted in a single season in a long time.
 - Crafts St Relocation: The Community Beautification Division has moved to the Crafts St location, the Maintenance Division will move to Crafts St in the Spring.

- Nahanton Park Bridge: As requested by the Commission the proposal has been reviewed by Engineering and Jini Fairley the ADA Coordinator. A compromise has been reached: The Friends group does not have the resources to make the bridge ADA compliant. A temporary bridge will be put at the location to be easily removed, at a later date when resources are available, to be made ADA compliant. No vote from the Commission is required the bridge is a temporary structure.

3. **Waban Hill Reservoir - Re-naming proposal-** Gerry Butter presenting

- Friends of Waban Hill Reservoir Park are requesting a name change of Waban Hill Reservoir Park to Heartbreak Hill Reservoir Park, submitting the following proposal:
 - 1). *Clarification of Location:* The current name is confusing because the park is not located in the Waban section of Newton, Massachusetts. The site is located at the top of Heartbreak Hill which because of the Boston Marathon is well known to Newton residents as well as nationally and internationally. The new name will clarify more precisely the location of the Park.
 - 2). *Promotion of Newton:* Promotion of the Park will highlight Newton both nationally and internationally since currently most outside of Massachusetts (and even some in Massachusetts) think that Heartbreak Hill is located in the City of Boston.
 - 3). *Support Fundraising:* The name change will help with fundraising and will also create community awareness and pride. This project is a wonderful example of a public and community partnership and the more the community is engaged with the site, the more successful the project will be. The new name will allow for the selling of apparel and other collectibles with Heartbreak Hill/Newton designs that will be beneficial for park promotion, fundraising and awareness of the location of Heartbreak Hill being in Newton.
 - 4) *Community Engagement and Social Purpose:* The new name will be useful to help promote special fundraising events for various causes.
 - 5) *Potential issues check and cleared:* Use of the name Heartbreak Hill- According to our research, it does not appear that anyone has a claim to the name. The name “Heartbreak Hill” originated in an article written by Jerry Mason in which he described what he thought Jonny Kelly must have felt (“Heartbreak”) when Tarzen Brown tapped him on the shoulder as he passed Kelly ascending the hill (“Hill”) in the 1936 marathon-hence the name “Heartbreak Hill” was born.
- The Commission requested additional information before moving to a public hearing:
 - Why the area was originally named Waban Hill Reservoir?
 - Is there any historical significance to the current name?
 - Notify the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) of the proposal
 - Has the name Heartbreak Hill been trademarked?
 - Verify there are no issues with the name change by the City’s Law Department
 - Check with the City Clerk, David Olson, on the materials cost to change the name in documents, maps, etc.

4. ~~Duane Hillis – Discussion 499 Winchester Street~~ – Cancelled

5. **Crescent Street Project – Update**

- Public Buildings Commissioner Josh Morse commented the project is in the early stages. The design team will present the initial design that meets the conditions required by the City Council. The Design Review Committee (DRC) will be reviewing the building and parking portion of this project, tonight the design team is looking for input from the P & R Commission on the park area of this project.
- David Eisen, of Abacus Architects presented the current design (see attached)
 - 8 units, 4 at affordable pricing and 4 at market price
- Mr. Stern asked if Newton Housing Authority would be overseeing the buildings. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the City would manage with a maintenance contract. Mr. Stern is concerned the P & R Department would be responsible for maintenance and plowing of building. Commissioner DeRubeis stated P & R would be responsible for the park land
- Mr. Stern asked if there is any signage planned. Mr. Eisen stated signage has not been discussed.
- Mr. Figler asked what the cost will be and how is the project funded. Commissioner DeRubeis replied the project is funded by the City/CPC and the current estimated cost is approximately 5 million dollars.
- Mr. Stern asked if the park will be lighted. Commissioner DeRubeis stated no lights have been discussed at this point.
- Mr. Neville asked the distance from the building to the Mass Pike, Mr. Eisen replied 30'-40'.
- Deneen Crosby, CSS Boston
 - Expanded playground and open space, current park area is ~37,000 sq. ft. Proposed area is ~57,000 sq. ft.
 - Flexible use space
 - Walking loop
 - Plantings at each entrance
 - Multi-generational area including a playground for small children, a playground for older children and exercise equipment for all ages.
 - Integrated historic elements to be added to park
- Mr. Stern asked what the rain garden does? Ms. Crosby stated the area is sloped and water loving plants are planted in the rain garden to absorb the run-off.
- Mr. Stern asked if the flexible use space could be used for organized sports. Commissioner Derubeis replied the space is not for organized sports, only passive recreation.
- Chairman Magni thanked the group for the update and stated a vote is not necessary for this update.

6. **Committee Reports**

- **Community Preservation Committee**
 - An open seat of the CPC must be filled by a Commission member. Commissioner DeRubeis commented that Mr. Dunker mentioned he is interested. Mr. Stern stated the position is very interesting but a

dedication of time. Chairman Magni advised speaking with Mr. Dunker during the November meeting.

- **Farm Commission** – no report
- **Cabot Redesign Committee** – no report
- **Commonwealth Golf Course**
 - Committee had a tour of the maintenance building; estimated cost of new building will be between 1.8 million and 2.2 million due to all of the environmental requirements.
- **Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)**
 - The Commissioner is meeting with Representative Balser and the DCR Commissioner to discuss use of land near Chestnut Hill Mall.
- **Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)**
 - Meeting Nov 7. Bids for Levingston Cove RFP are being reviewed.
 - Mr Stern inquired on status of bio-islands. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the bio-islands are still under discussion.
 - Mr. Tucker asked if there is any milfoil or other invasive plants in Crystal Lake. Commissioner DeRubeis replied no.
 - Chairman Magni has heard from neighbors who want an ordinance to enforce no swimming in lake outside supervised beach area.
- **Athletic Fields Committee**
 - Meeting to be scheduled this month
- **Nahanton Park Committee**
 - Mr. Tucker commented the grass is coming in nicely in the newly renovated area and the Community gardens look great. Commissioner DeRubeis commented there is a wait list for gardens every year and Judy Dore has requested to install additional gardens but the issue is the water pressure. The pressure is not strong enough to support additional garden plots. Mr. Tucker asked if Judy Dore could attend a meeting to discuss the Community Garden program.

7. New Business

- Mr. Tucker commented the old deer park on Hammond Pond Parkway has become overgrown since it closed. Tomorrow, trees are being cleared and goats are being used to clear the ground cover.

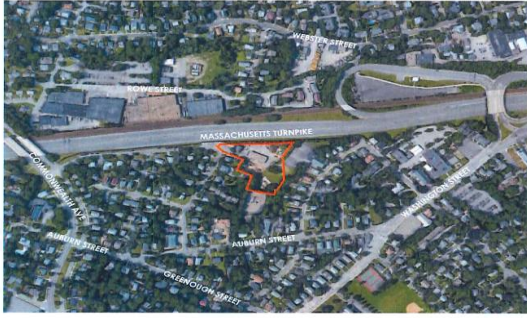
Meeting adjourned 8:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Commission Secretary

Crescent Street Housing and Reverend Ford Playground Expansion



NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

CSS CRESCENT STREET HOUSING & REVEREND FORD PLAYGROUND EXPANSION | 10 - 16, 17 ABACUS [ARCHITECTS + PLANNERS]



CRESCENT STREET HOUSING & REVEREND FORD PLAYGROUND EXPANSION | 10 - 18, 17 ABACUS [ARCHITECTS + PLANNERS]



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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