



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Room 204- City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, December 18, 2017

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner DeRubeis, Byron Dunker, Peter Johnson, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Jack Neville, Pat Palmer, Michael Clarke, Sam Figler

Meeting Began 7:02

1. **Meeting Minutes**-November 20, 2017-Accepted 8-0
2. **Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
 - Arts in the Parks: Linda Plaut is temporarily working part-time; the Commissioner is meeting with Linda and Jeannie Smith to make a plan going forward.
 - The Commissioner has been meeting with the Mayor-Elect and the transition team.
 - Programs: School Vacation Camps, NNHS Indoor Recreation, NSHS Indoor Recreation, Ski & Snowboard program and the Camp Fair on January 28.
 - Projects: Newton Highlands is 98% complete. Pellegrini Wall is complete, meeting with Weston and Sampson regarding the Levingston Cove project on January 30, 2018. Waban Hill improvements are on hold until the new Mayor is in office.
3. **Waban Hill Reservoir Re-naming- Gail Silberstein/Jerry Butter- Public Hearing**
 - Friends of Waban Hill Reservoir Park are requesting a name change of Waban Hill Reservoir Park to Heartbreak Hill Reservoir Park. There were no comments from the public.
 - The Commission discussed honoring both histories of the City and the Marathon. Councilor Baker agreed. Ms. Silberstein commented the history could be shared as the park becomes known.
 - The suggestion, from all in attendance, was to keep "Waban Hill Reservoir" and "Heartbreak Hill" in the name.

Mr. Neville made the motion to change the name of Waban Hill Reservoir to Heartbreak Hill Park @ Waban Hill Reservoir. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

4. Committee Reports

- **Community Preservation Committee** – no report
- **Farm Commission**- no report
- **Cabot Redesign Committee** – The steel is going up for the school. Softball field is in.
- **Commonwealth Golf Course**- Held the annual holiday party for special needs adults, had a good turn-out. Mayor-Elect Fuller was in attendance.
- **Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)** – Met with DCR about a dog park on DCR land near Chestnut Hill Mall. Received complaints about Hunnewell Park being overrun with Dog Walking companies.
- **Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)** – January 30th Weston & Sampson will meet with group to discuss renovation at Levingston Cove.
- **Athletic Fields Committee** – Mr. Figler disagreed with the comment from Mr. Dunker in the November minutes “Mr. Dunker commented the Commission has never micromanaged the day to day operation of the Parks and Recreation Department and should not start now.” Commissioner DeRubeis recommended handling this issue as is with the Working Group. The Working Group will be meeting again on January 11.
- **Nahanton Park Committee** – no report

5. New Business

- Howard & Karen Haywood, lifetime residents and members of the Myrtle Baptist Church. Mr. Haywood is upset about the lack of housing included in the Crescent Street Project. The residents in the area were displaced many years ago when the turnpike was built through Newton. Mr. Haywood understands the Project is already in progress and the Commission cannot make any changes but wants to know why the Commission voted as they did.
- Chairman Magni stated the Commission only voted on the open space portion of the project. The Commission has no say over the housing portion of the project.
- Mr. Haywood knows there was nothing the Commission could do, but wanted the Commission to know how he felt, that nobody considered the history of the area.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Commission Secretary