



Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 204 – City Hall

7:00 p.m. –Monday, May 16, 2016

Attending: Chairman Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Andy Stern, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville, Michael Clarke, Pat Palmer

Meeting began 7:06 pm

1. Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2016

- Approved 8-0

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

- *Waban Hill* public meeting scheduled Tuesday May 17
- *Auburndale Playground* – the new play structure has been installed. The department received \$200,000.00 from the estate of Helen Curtis Abel for senior transportation and programs. Judy Dore is working with Ron Mahan in DPW to purchase a van. A cluster of exercise equipment is going to be installed at the Auburndale Cove, allowing programs focused on seniors.
- *Newton Highlands Project*- Councilor Gentile has spoken with the Executive office regarding finding the additional money to finance the master plan for the Highlands. There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow to discuss the project.
- *BigBelly program*- 340 units have been placed around the city. Many of the blue and green barrels have been removed. There are concerns by the residents with the lack of barrels. There is an education piece to this program. The bigbelly receptacles will provide data on pick up frequency. There may be a carry in carry out policy at the parks. Signs are being posted with information. Mr. Stern stated visual pollution replaces the trash. This change will require behavior modification.
- *Forestry* – hazardous trees are being removed, a contractor is assisting with the removals. The hazardous tree removal should be complete in six weeks. Mr. Stern asked if there is snow money available to help with the cost.

3. Solar Panels on Park Land Discussion

- During the last Commission meeting there was discussion regarding parks being targeted for industrial use of solar panels and preventing this by Commission policy.
- Mr. Palmer asked what the panel would power if installed in a park. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the net metering would be reduced city wide.

- Chairman Magni asked if there is a proposal. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there may have been some confusion that solar panels were going to be installed on the Waban Hill Reservoir. Mr. Morse the Public Buildings Commissioner is going to utilize school property and does not anticipate going into active areas and he is aware of the Commission's concerns.

4. Committee Reports

- *Community Preservation Committee – Mr. Fishman*
 - Awaiting Newton Highlands decision. Commissioner DeRubeis stated he has spoken with Ms. Ingerson. The project may have to be phased but the preference is to get it all done at once.
- *Farm Commission – no report*
- *Cabot Redesign Committee – no report*
- *Commonwealth Golf Course – no report*
- *Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)*
 - Discussion on areas for small dogs at existing off-leash areas; Hunnewell and Cold Spring Park.
 - Mr. Tucker mentioned there are holes in the fence at Hunnewell Park. Commissioner DeRubeis will have the fence repaired. Mr. Tucker stated McGrath Park is a great off-leash area. Commissioner DeRubeis stated McGrath off-leash area is the next to be renovated.
- *Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)*
 - Mr. Stern asked the status of Crystal Lake. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there has been discussion on Levingston Cove and DPW possibly taking care of Lake Terrace.
- *Nahanton Park Committee- no report*

5. New Business - none

Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin