



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**City Hall, Room 209**

**7:00 p.m. –Monday, November 17, 2014**



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

**Attending:** Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Andy Stern, Jack Neville, Peter Kastner, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

*Meeting began at 7:05 pm*

1. Meeting Minutes
  - September 22, 2014 – Approved 7-0
  - No minutes recorded October 2014 (no quorum)
2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance
  - Commissioner DeRubeis reported on the passing of long time employees, Roy Martell and David Ireland
  - Crystal Lake Working Group is working on a management plan for the lake.
  - Off-Leash Area Working Group is working on a proposal for a small dog off-leash area. Cabot Park renovations are complete. The area is closed to allow the grass and trees a healthy start.
  - Indoor Farmers Market begins November 18 at the Hyde Community Center, 1pm-5pm.
  - There was a wrap up meeting for the new Elm Street Summer Farmers Market. There were no issues or complaints. The market was a fun community event.
  - Commissioner DeRubeis met with Michael Ahajianian of Boating Boston, the new manager of the Commonwealth Ave canoe & kayak business. Mr. Ahajianian would like to partner with Parks & Recreation to run summer camp programs.
  - NSHS tennis courts were renovated using the RiteWay system to get the teams through the MIAA tournament season. The NSHS courts are on the CIP list for a complete renovation next year.
  - Winter programs: NNHS Indoor Recreation, NSHS Indoor Recreation, Ski & Snowboard Program, School Vacation Camps.
  - Burr School Playground build is complete.
  - Waban Hill Reservoir is going before the CPC in December.
  - Emerson Playground grand opening is scheduled for December 2 at 2pm.
  - Establish sub-committee for building at Nahanton Park
    - December meeting: the group will review language of Nahanton Park agreement and appoint committee.
3. Jerusalem Day- Larry Koplan – Informational Meeting (proposal attached)
  - Mr. Koplan is requesting permission to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Jerusalem Day in Newton Centre on June 7, 2015. The event is sponsored by Christians and Jews United for Israel, Inc. ("CJUI"), a 501C non-profit organization. CJUI is requesting the P & R Commission allow the CJUI to have inflatable rides which will be delivered, set up, and operated only by a company familiar to, and approved by the City of Newton, and only operated after proper safety inspection. CJUI would also like approval by the department to have a few small mechanical rides for younger attendees such as carousel, kiddie fire engine ride, or something of that nature. CJUI also plans to have games, contests, and face painting for the younger kids. Along with dancing and singing to Israeli music, singers entertaining, and several speakers. Last June, it was estimated the event had in the area of 1,500 to 2,000 people attending the event through the day. CJUI will rent chairs,

tables, and toilet facilities, which will be delivered and picked up at the location. All will be removed by the end of the day of the event. For music, as well as the speakers, CJUI will require some sort of amplification system which will need to be rented, set up and dismantled. CJUI would like to end the event with a parade around Newton Center with the Newton Police directing traffic. CJUI will contact the Newton Police Department for their advice as to the best parade route.

- Mr. Koplan reported that last year's event was a great success. The merchants were pleased, the Police were a great help, and Newton Centre Green was left as it was found.
- Chairman Magni asked Commissioner DeRubeis if there were any issues reported last year. Commissioner DeRubeis reported there were no issues with this event.
- Mr. Stern mentioned concern over having inflatable rides. Mr. Koplan replied the company setting up the ride has provided service to Newton in the past and secures the inflatable rides.
- Mr. Neville asked how many Police Officers will be present. Mr. Koplan stated there were four officers on site during the event last year.

*Mr. Stern made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 8-0.*

4. Auburndale Cove

- Outdoor Ice Skating Rules & Regulations (attached) – no changes- approved 8-0
- Summer Picnics- Alcohol – December meeting: review language & current policy regarding alcohol use at the Auburndale Cove.

5. New Business

- Update-Enforcement discussion with Police Chief Mintz
  - Mr. Stern reported Chairman Magni and Commissioner DeRubeis met with the Law Dept. and Police Dept. regarding the enforcement issues at Crystal Lake. Because the rules and regulations from 1924 make the offense of swimming outside the beach area a criminal offense instead of a civil offense, the Police are reluctant to enforce the rules. A change to the 1924 Rules and regulations would be required. The change would need to be approved by the Board of Alderman.

Meeting Adjourned 8:17 pm  
Respectfully Submitted,  
*Robin McLaughlin*

Laurence D. Koplan  
1311 Commonwealth Ave.  
West Newton, MA. 02465

November 7, 2014

Mr. Robert J. DeRubeis, Commissioner  
Parks & Recreation Department  
124 Vernon Street  
Newton, Massachusetts 02458

Dear Commissioner DeRubeis:

At the suggestion of Robin McLaughlin of your department, I am writing this letter prior to my making a presentation at your next scheduled meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014, at 7:00 PM.

My wife and I are longtime residents of the City of Newton. My business is also headquartered in this city. No doubt, my wife and I feel a strong bond and always proud to say we are from Newton, Massachusetts.

We are both active members, as well as being on the Executive Board of a Massachusetts non-profit corporation, Christians and Jews United for Israel, Inc. ("CJUI"), which is located at 194 Grove Street, Chestnut Hill, MA. As your department so kindly allowed us to hold our annual Jerusalem Day event this past June 1st, I am requesting that we be issued a permit again to hold it next year, on Sunday, June 7th, 2015, on the two grassed parks in Newton Center, alongside Center Street. Our past event ran very smoothly, with no issues. The local merchants, who were open for business, were very cooperative and happy with the festivities. I personally spoke to a number of them the next day and heard only good reports. I made sure that we had more than adequate police coverage for both security and proper traffic flow. My wife and I were at the site early on Sunday morning, supervising the set up. We also were the last ones to leave when the event was over making sure that everything was left in perfect order and totally clean. We even hired people to remove all trash. When we left there, there were no signs that the festivities ever took place.

We are planning to have next year's event commence at 12:00 noon, on Sunday June 7th, and end at 5:00 P.M. CJUI will not in itself be serving any food, but as we did last June, we will select a few properly permitted food, ice cream, soft drink, or snack vendors, that the City of Newton is well familiar with, to sell refreshments. Absolutely, no alcoholic drinks will be sold or allowed at the event. As we did last June, we would again like the approval of The Parks and Recreation Department to allow CJUI to have inflatable rides which will be delivered, set up, and operated only by a company familiar to, and approved by the City of Newton, and only operated after proper safety inspection. CJUI would also like approval by the department to have a few small mechanical rides for younger attendees such as carousel, kiddie fire engine ride, or something of that nature. We will also plan to have games, contests, and face painting for the younger kids.

Along with dancing and singing to Israeli music, we will have singers entertaining, and several speakers. Last June, we estimate that we had in the area of 1,500 to 2000 people attending the event through the day. We will rent chairs, tables, and toilet facilities, which will be delivered and picked up at the location. All will be removed by the end of the day of the event, and under my personal supervision.

For music as well as the speakers we again will require some sort of amplification system which will

need to be rented as well as set up and dismantled. As we did last June, we would like to end the event with a parade around Newton Center with the Newton Police directing traffic. We will again contact the Newton Police Department for their advice as to the best parade route.

On behalf of CJUI, my wife, Beverly and I look forward to meeting with the Department next Monday evening, November 17th, 2014 at 7:00 PM, at Newton City Hall (Room 209) to discuss our proposal and answer any questions the committee may have.

Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Larry (Laurence) D. Koplan

## OUTDOOR SKATING

2014 -2015

The following standards are used in determining sufficient ice thickness for safe skating:

Auburndale – Ware’s Cove	6” Black Ice, 9” Snow Ice
Newtonville – Bullough’s Pond	6” Black Ice, 9” Snow Ice
Newton Centre – Crystal Lake	**6” Black Ice, 9” Snow Ice

Note: Due to the varying water depths, unevenness of freezing, and an inability to contain the skating areas, the entire Lake must be frozen in order for safe skating to occur.

\*\*Black Ice is formed by the freezing of water without a snowcap on it; thus creating a non-porous ice that is strong in consistency. Snow Ice is formed when a snow covers, over a thin layer of black ice melts and re-freezes to form a white porous ice.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

1. At the outset of the coming skating season, it is recommended that the hours of operation for Auburndale Cove, be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 3:00 – 9:00 PM  
Tuesday 2:00 – 9:00 PM  
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays\*, Vacations 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

2. At the outset of the coming skating season, it is recommended that the hours of operation for Bullough’s Pond and Crystal Lake be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 3:00 – Dusk  
Tuesday 2:00 – Dusk  
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays\*, Vacations 10:00 AM – Dusk

3. If attendance does not warrant keeping the facility or facilities open during operation hours, it is then recommended that a cutback of program hours be instituted on an as needed basis with Managers approval.

\*HOLIDAYS: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Day and President’s Day. The facilities will open for regular vacation hours only if we are able to procure adequate staff for safe operation. If the facilities will be closed, notification will be made to the Public and Safety Personnel at least 24 hours in advance.

Exception: All facilities will close at 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve.

Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City’s Law Department (2/5/92)