



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**City Hall - Room 209**  
**7:00 p.m. –Monday, October 21, 2013**



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

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

*Meeting began at 7:06 pm*

Chairman Magni introduced Byron Dunker, Ward 5 representative for the P & R Commission. Mr. Dunker has been involved in youth leagues, coaching Babe Ruth leagues and has been involved with the P & R Department for a long time.

**1. Meeting Minutes**

- September 16, 2013- Approved 8-0

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

- Pumpkins & Paddles -October 6-Crystal Lake Conservancy held the event to provide neighbors with an update on Crystal Lake.
- Bullough's Pond Event - Newtonville Day-Sept. 29- To bring awareness to the pond. The Bullough's Pond association will be bringing forward a proposal in the next couple of months regarding the warming hut.
- Scarecrow Walk - Nahanton Park- Oct 19-20- over 300 people attended each day. This is a fun, family event.
- Harvest Fair - Oct 19 - 20
- Paddy's Road Race-Oct 20- Once again Mark Kelly held a successful event with over 2,000 participants.
- NNHS Indoor Recreation – registration and activities are open
- Playground projects; Highlands, Emerson, Burr, Cabot, Horace Mann, Pierce, CDBG Pelligrini, Underwood, Angier relocation to Carr, Angier new playground. The LFCC Playground ribbon cutting was held on Oct 10.
- Field Renovation process- working with NYS to develop a process and schedule
- Indoor Farmers Market - Nov- \*NEW\* EBT program. This year a gluten free baker and pop over vendor will be attending the market.
- Waban Hill Reservoir – on-going
- UF Rail Trail- Rail Trail groundbreaking date set for Oct 25th with Secretary Davey
- It is time to renew the canoe & kayak concession at Nahanton Park and it is possible a second location will be included at the Auburndale Cove.
- Wally Bernheimer has retired from the Commission. A recognition of service presentation will take place during the December meeting.
- Off-Leash Information: 1,200 Off-leash permits, 6 professional permits
- October Forestry work completed; 50 removals, 30 prunes, 5 stumps

- Maintenance: Setting up beds along Commonwealth Avenue so volunteers can plant 10,000 daffodil bulbs for the Marathon. Maintenance is marking fields and blowing out irrigation lines.

### **3. Crescent St-Playground- Re-Use**

- Commissioner DeRubeis reported the neighbors have requested the Joint Action Planning Group (JAPG) reopen the re-use process for the land at 70 Crescent St. The neighbors stated they were never notified of the process and would like to use the land as open space.
- Alderman Albright requested Commissioner DeRubeis attend the next Reuse Committee meeting to discuss this issue. Commissioner DeRubeis asked if a couple of Commission members could also attend the meeting.
- Mr. Tucker asked if the Commission should endorse using the land for fields. Mr. Stern asked if the Commission would need a written proposal. Commissioner DeRubeis stated not for the committee meeting.

### **4. New Business**

- Commissioner DeRubeis asked Mr. Clarke if he had information on the dock at Cronin's Cove. Mr. Clarke commented the dock in Cronin's Cove is not an approved dock, but may be required by the State. If Levingston Cove is available for launching boats than the dock at Cronin's Cove would not be necessary.
- Chairman Magni commented the inquiry regarding the dock came from a discussion about how to use natural barriers to discourage swim at your own risk in Crystal Lake. Mr. Stern commented to preserve the lake we would need enforcement. Mr. Tucker asked how deep the deepest part of the lake is. Commissioner DeRubeis answered 32'. Mr. Tucker commented milfoil can kill a lake, it grows around the edge in the shallow water and it grows fast. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the State and Larry Smith of Charles River Canoe & Kayak spent ~\$75k to clean out Wares Cove. The hardest part of the clean-up is disposing of the milfoil once it has been removed from the water.
- Mr. Fishman asked if the Newton Highlands Playground has a Master Plan. Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes a Master Plan was approved in 2007. Currently the plan is being updated and the updates will be presented to the Commission as they are completed

Meeting Adjourned 8:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robin McLaughlin*