



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209, 7:00pm
December 17, 2012



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Bob DeRubeis, Commissioner, Fran Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Peter Johnson, Andrew Stern, Don Fishman, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville, Michael Clarke, Joe Frassica, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm

Chairman Magni introduced Joe Frassica, alternate member from Ward 8

1. Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2012 – accepted 8-0

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

- What's going on:
 - December Vacation Camp next week
 - NNHS Indoor Recreation
- Forestry Update- the new crew is doing a great job; the process to hire the third person is on-going. Marc Welch, the Urban Forestry Director has identified 600 trees for removal, 125 of the worst will be removed this month.
- Budget – first meeting with Executive Office today, Commissioner DeRubeis will keep the Commission updated.
- Off-leash Area Working Group – The plan for 2012 was to establish 2-4 additional areas. That has not happened; there have been issues with a few of the open areas and the group has been addressing the issues.
- Projects - Playgrounds- Underwood, Emerson, Highlands, Burr
- Coming up in winter 2013:
 - NSHS Indoor Recreation
 - Skiing/snowboarding
 - Camp Fair- January 27
- The outdoor rinks in Newton Centre, Lower Falls, and Newton Highlands have license agreements being reviewed by the Law Dept. At this time, the Newtonville group has not submitted a license agreement for review.

3. Relay For Life-2nd Meeting –Public Hearing, Sharon Stout

- The P & R Commission received an e-mail regarding noise and parking issues during the Relay for Life event. There was no representative for the Relay for Life event in attendance. There were no abutters of Forte Park in attendance. The Commission held this item for the January 28th meeting.

4. Nahanton Park – Temporary Fire Station location

- Commissioner DeRubeis, Chairman Magni and Robert Rooney met with the Friends of Nahanton Park (Friends) last week. The Friends, in order to allow the temporary fire station at Nahanton Park, requested a conservation restriction on the park once the

temporary fire station left the park. The Law Department discovered the State would warrant intervention due to Article 97 and the federal government would be involved due to the Urban Self-Help grant received in the 80's to renovate the park. This would be at least a two year process and that is too long to wait for the temporary fire station. The temporary fire station will not be housed at Nahanton Park.

- Mr. Tucker asked where the fire station will be housed. Commissioner DeRubeis commented the locations being reviewed are:
 - Charles River Golf Course
 - Jewish Community Center (JCC)
 - Hartman Park on Country Club Rd
- Mr. Clarke stated there will most likely be a fee involved with the golf course and JCC, the fire station could end up in Nahanton Park. Commissioner DeRubeis stated that is doubtful.

5. Kennard Estate

- Commissioner DeRubeis commented the Newton Public Schools is renting Kennard Estate for the Newton Partnership non-profit organization. The lease is coming up for renewal and wanted the Commissions input on how to proceed with the property.
- Mr. Kastner stated the Newton Partnership has been in the building for a year, the rent does not cover the cost. The lease should not be renewed.
- Mr. Clarke commented the Kennard Estate is a nice property and should be rented at market value. The building is falling into disrepair and there is historic value to the location.
- Mr. Stern asked Mr. Bernheimer if there are any proposals before the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Bernheimer stated not currently a proposal would have to be presented.
- Mr. Kastner suggested putting out a request for proposal. Mr. Clarke stated the Commission needs to determine how the building should be used, what is the vision. Is it a good site for affordable housing?
- Mr. Bernheimer commented the lease should be extended for a year while the Commission researches the options.
- Commissioner DeRubeis agrees with Mr. Bernheimer and commented he will research the deed, speak with Josh Morse of the Public Buildings Department about the cost of the building.

6. New Business

- No New business

7. Update

- Mr. Clarke commented the Law Dept. contacted him regarding the *Regulations for Newton's Waterways proposal* (see October 2012 meeting minutes). Mr. Clarke will be attending the Conservation Commission on Thursday to present the proposal.

Meeting Adjourned 7:42pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin