

RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

November 1, 2022

7:00 PM

Remote Zoom Meeting

Present: Hema Santhanakrishnan, Commissioner; Joe Will, Chair; Steve Trimble, Clerk; Nancy Corcoran, Commissioner; Melissa Settipani-Rufo, Recreation Director.

Resident: Jeff Bergart

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from October

There was clarification requested for each item below:

- i. Fields and Facilities: The commissioners agreed with the plan to reduce the timeslot reservation for the tennis courts from 2 hours to 1 hour. No vote was taken on the matter.
- ii. NARA Sports Pavilion: This facility will be referred to as the "NARA Sports Plaza" (remove the word Pavilion).
- iii. Joe is making some adjustments.
- iv. Joe moved to accept the minutes with the clarifications noted in the meeting. Hema seconded. Approved by Steve, Joe, and Hema.

2. Residents' Concerns

Joe noted that Bettina Abe and Maureen Bodner were considering a proposal to designate Morrison Farm with a conservation or agriculture restriction.

3. Reports

a. Fields and Facilities

Melissa contacted but did not complete turf care, and instead redirected the money to the volleyball courts at Jones. (\$14-15k estimate)

b. Events

The Monsterbash was the final event for the season. People responded to a post-event survey. Prior attendees at NARA preferred NARA but the newer people liked it at the Recreation Center. Melissa plans to move it back to NARA next year (better volume and inclusion).

c. Dog Park/Senior Park

- The town announced the sewer extension funding for the McManus Housing Complex which may allow the Dog Park and Senior Park to begin work sooner now that the septic system is not a critical-path item.

- At the Public Dog Forum last week, participant Betsy Krystl raised several watch items for the dog park:
 - i. There was not enough shade displayed in the documents
 - ii. She was concerned that there is a 2-gate entrance to enter and leave each dog area.
 - iii. Suggested dog owners bring their own bowl for watering to lessen germ issues.
 - iv. For the safety of the dogs there should be obstacles in each area that might mitigate a predatory dog from charging across the enclosure to attack another dog. She cited deaths occurred in dog parks.
- Annual use for Dog License fees. This money is placed in the General Fund for Recreation use toward the dog park. While it could be used for maintenance in the future, that is not required in this fiscal year. Allocation for other items (e.g., benches and trees) must wait until final specification. The Commission recommends polling the Dog Park Committee on how to use this year's funding by 6/30/23.
- d. Rail Trails: Jeff noted the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Annual Meeting is Sunday, November 20 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at Pedal Power.
- e. Community Preservation Committee

CPA Projects:

- Gardner Playground Renovation: The Town and Friends of Gardner Field selected the engineering design plan which moves the parking lot to the rear. It will use the same planned equipment, but the orientation will change accordingly.
- Elm Street Court Reconstruction: Still working on bid documents, and these will send out by year end with the goal of construction in the Spring.
- NARA Bridge Boardwalk: Submitting for full amount \$300,000. Senator Eldridge applied for \$200,000 to help with the reconstruction through the state, and if received, it will help off-set the request to the CPC.

II. New/Special Business

4. Human Services Committee

Hema attended 10/20/22 meet and greet. Eight of the ten members attended. This meeting will likely be 1st or 2nd Thursday of month. Hema noted that the group has work to do to define its mission.

5. Acton Pride 2023

The Recreation Department plans to coordinate an LGBTQ Festival on June 17, 2023. Melissa hopes to engage surrounding businesses and towns. Sudbury did a small Pride festival this past June.

Melissa is engaging the public to create a Pride Committee, with groups like “The Common Ground” from High school, Acton’s Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Commission, etc. June is designated Pride Month. Melissa noted that there is heavy resident interest.

The Recreation Commission supports this event but did not take a formal vote.

III. Consent Items

- a. It was noted that the Town’s 2023-2030 Open Space Public Forum will occur 11/10/22.
- b. Steve requested moving the Recreation Commission meetings to accommodate a move by the CPC to 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. The Rec Commission will meet December 13, to accommodate this schedule.
- c. Steve moved to adjourn, 2nd by Hema. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:54.

Next Meeting

Date	Time	Location
December 13, 2022	7:00 PM	Zoom
TBD	7:00 PM	TBD

February – No Meeting