



RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

January 3, 2024

7:00 PM

Remote Zoom Meeting

Present: Hema Santhanakrishnan (HS), Commissioner; Joe Will (JW), Chair; Steve Trimble (ST), Clerk; Melissa Settapani-Rufo (MSR), Recreation Director; David Martin (DM), Select Board Liason.

Absent: N/A

Public Attendees: Jamie Chung, Phillip Bogaevsky, Alissa Nicol

JW opened the meeting opened at 7:00 PM

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from November 8th, 2023. Accepted as presented..
2. Residents' Concerns. None raised
3. Disc Golf Location:
 - a. The public attendees, Jamie and Phillip, wanted to get approval to install a course at NARA. They had previously looked at Great Hill but Land Stewards did not support this space due to the high dog walking population there.
 - b. Information that the guests presented about disc golf include:
 - i. 90% of courses are free.
 - ii. Nearest course is 12 miles away.
 - iii. Chelmsford has a course at the high school.
 - iv. A question asked was, "Could the installation of the course be an Eagle Scout project?"
 - v. Pricing: ~\$400 per basket.
 - vi. Jamie and Phillip presented par 3 holes for the future Acton course.
 - c. Another location they looked at was Morrison Farm.
 - i. They made a course with 9 holes.
 - ii. 2700 yards like NARA.
 - iii. Intermediate level.
 - iv. Concern on dog walkers.
 - v. A negative at this location is the low field management with un-mowed areas.
 - d. Q&A
 - i. 6-9 acres of land are needed for 9 holes
 - ii. 12-16 acres for 18 holes.
 - iii. MSR read Richard Doherty's statement that supports a disc golf course in Acton.
 - iv. JW reported that Morrison is Municipal land and there is an active process to get a Conservation Restriction which may take this location off the list as a course option.
 - v. The land beyond NARA is Town DPW land.
 - vi. MSR compared the School Street scheduling issue to what could happen at NARA, if adding this new sport to this location.

- vii. Mike Gendron suggested Camp Acton, located on Pope Road.
- viii. Joe had asked if Jenks too small to add a course.
- ix. DM had two clarifications:
 - 1. If this land has a Conservation Restriction, we need to read the Restriction to see what is allowed.
 - 2. Agreement between the parties. Conservation Commission needs to confirm that structures are at least 75 feet away from wetlands.
- x. HS likes Camp Acton over NARA.
- xi. DM reported that the Kennedy family owns the land next to NARA and this area may be difficult to receive permission to add the course.

4. Reports:

- a) Events, Programs, & Facilities
 - a. Summer programs are posted on the website and social media.
 - b. Programs running currently are soccer, archery, yoga, and more.
 - c. MSR had put in a capital improvement request to replace the roofs at NARA's Bathhouse and Amphitheater.
- b) Main Street Campus
 - a. Senior Park discussions are currently on hold.
- c) Community Preservation Act
 - a) Current Projects
 - Gardner Playground Renovation – Used frequently. Some parts are missing for the carousel but have been ordered. Just before holidays DPW met with HDC and reviewed the landscaping plans.
 - Elm Street Court Reconstruction – The practice board has been installed and the project is complete.
 - NARA Bridge Boardwalk – Town staff will be meeting with the contractor on Friday. The work was delayed due to the high water levels. Andrea Ristine has been the Project Manager of this project, working with MSR.
 - b) 2024 Recreation Projects – presented to the CPC in December:
 - Jones Shade Structure
 - NARA Sports Plaza Shade Structure
 - Dog Park

II. New/Special Business

- 5. Open Space and Recreation Plan
 - a. The 1st draft close to completion.
 - b. It's expected to be complete in the spring.
- 6. Painted Snake Face Rock at NARA: MSR painted a snake face on a rock at NARA for the haunted trail walk in October. Some in the Town would like it back to its original state. HS and JW would like to take a walk at NARA and see the artwork before making any decisions. Discussion will continue in at the February meeting.

Options for the painted rock:

 - a. Leave it as is and, possibly incorporate into NARA Camp.
 - b. Paint the rock gray/close color to match the rock.
 - c. Power wash it with graffiti removal.
 - d. Sandblast it, which is very expensive.
- 7. Additional Business

- a. HS asked about Human Services Commission. Per DM, some new volunteers were appointed, but no new meetings at this time.

8:15: ST motions, JW seconds, all approved 8:15 PM

Upcoming Recreation Commission Meetings

Date	Time	Location
February 6, 2024 (Tuesday)	7:00 PM	Virtual
March 6, 2024	7:00 PM	Virtual