



RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 2, 2024

3:00 PM

Acton Recreation Center

50 Audubon Drive, Acton, MA 01720

Present: Jeff Bergart (JB), Commissioner; David Martin (DM) Select Board Liaison; Melissa Settipani-Rufo (MSR), Recreation Director; Steve Trimble (ST), Clerk; Joe Will (JW), Chair.

Absent: none

Public Attendees: none

JW opened the meeting opened at 3:01 PM

I. Recreation Commission Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from June 6th, 2024. No comments raised. Minutes accepted as amended.
2. Residents' Concerns.
None.
3. Reports:
 - a) *Events, Programs, & Facilities*
 - a. MSR reported out \$19,000 net income to Revolving Fund. \$41,000 was deposited into the Gift Fund from sponsorships for performer payment, and \$18,239 remains. In 2023 the revolving fund ran at a \$8,600 deficit and the events gift fund started at \$36,000.
 - b. Maura Haberman moved to the Economic Development Office along with Town events.
 - c. Event Volunteers Needed per MSR.
 - i. Monsterbash, Friday, October 18, 6:00-8:00 pm
 - ii. Nightmare at NARA: Haunted Trail Walk, Fridays and Saturdays in October. 7:00-9:00 pm
 - d. Recreation Program Fees are split 70% contractor and 30% to the Recreation Division.
 - e. Summer Camp
 - i. The two camps grossed \$169,882 and netted \$161,000 which went into the Revolving Fund.
 - ii. The beach and snack bar ran at a loss of \$5,811 partially due to the declining memberships. MSR is working with Finance looking at the fees which seem high compared to similar activities in other towns. (~\$200/year). Steve recommended cutting by 30-50% versus \$10-20 dollars if they really want to see if this is the issue.
 - f. The Recreation Revolving Fund will fund the new Activities and Program Coordinator position.

b) Community Preservation Act

a) Current Projects

- o *Gardner Playground Renovation*

- MSR and DM noted that the work to complete approved Historic District changes were in process. No end date provided.
- Dog Park – The sewer work is underway and the dog park should start construction in the spring.
- Shade Structures: NARA moving forward while Jones Field was in review due to wetlands.
- Steve mentioned he heard the screens were going in the Sports Plaza Buildings which MSR acknowledged. Cost unknown but there was \$5,000 of CPA funding available.

b) 2024 Projects

- MSR stated that disc golf would move forward and would not be super expensive. It is planned for public municipal land and not in conservation areas, adjacent to the Miracle League Field.
- DM noted that 53 River Street would submit projects. Landscaping would fall under Recreation and signage under Historic.

II. New/Special Business, Part II

- a) **Replacing boards at Bathhouse Patio:** The boards are old and causing splinters. MSR is looking at solutions such as sand, TREX, etc. with sand the cheapest and likely the solution.
- b) **Replacing Rec Vehicle:** Melissa has a new vehicle (2024 Chevy Blazer) replacing a 2013 Ford Explorer which is no longer economical.
- c) **Replacing Doors at NARA:** MSR noted that it is very easy to gain access at the stage and other storage areas. These doors will be replaced and secured.
- d) **Water Fountains:** The Miracle League Field turf was updated with a new surface material. Three drinking fountains at the site were no longer in use, and were donated to the Town. MSR looking to use them at Robbins Mills (replacement), the skate park and perhaps Elm Street (JW suggestion).
- e) **FY26 Budget:** Melissa oversees the Celebration Gift Fund (used also by the 250 Committee), Recreation portion of the Town's General Fund, and the Recreation Revolving Fund. The budgeting process for FY26 has started and concludes with the Town Meeting in May 2025.
- f) **Acton Hazard Mitigation Plan:** This is a statewide five-year plan that focuses on proactive prevention on environmental items like flooding, tornadoes, etc. MSR noted she is the certified Playground Safety Inspector. Tree trimming is part of the program in Town. There is an 8/2 draft in circulation.
- g) **Additional Business:** JB and DM discussed the Recreation Commission potentially taking on advisory role for the rail trails in Town. Items might be trail degradation, review of planned installations, etc. This is moved to the next meeting for further discussion.

JW motions to adjourn, JB seconded, all approved and the meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Upcoming Recreation Commission Meetings

Date	Time	Location
November 6, 2024	3:00 PM	Acton Recreation Center
December 4, 2024	3:00 PM	Acton Recreation Center
January 8, 2025	3:00 PM	Acton Recreation Center