



# *Natick Recreation & Parks*

People Driven. Service Focused.

**Karen Partanen**  
Recreation & Parks  
Director

Recreation and Parks Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2022

Present: Peg Waters, Mike Fair, David Ordway, Barbara Sanchez, Jessica Ordway, Jason Brandt, Wayne Szretter, Seth Levine

Absent: Kelly McPherson

Approval of minutes from December 5, 2021:

Motion made by Mr. Brandt. Seconded by Ms. Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously.

**Citizens Concerns:** None

## **Common Requests:**

- Natick Center Cultural District - Farmers Market
- Natick 180 Banner
- Concerts on the Common
- Natick Nights

Mr. Brandt moves to accept all of these common requests, Mr. Fair seconds. Motion passed unanimously

## **Directors Report**

- *Donation Report*

- *Multi Purpose Courts (23 Pleasant Street):* Discussion arises regarding this parcel being involved with the South Natick Dam renovation. Ms. Partanen is hesitant to bring this parcel of land into the South Natick Dam renovation plan because it has not been advertised to the public. The commission would need opinions of residents as to what the best use of the parcel would look like in their opinion. This parcel is in the capitol budget meaning there will be future funds dedicated to enhancing it. Martin Kessel, Chair of the Open Space advisory committee and member of the Charles River Dam committee, would like us to consider this parcel of land to include a canoe launch. He also would like us to consider looking at 23 Pleasant Street, South Natick Dam Park and Grove Park as a whole, rather than individually. He proposes connecting the parks by creating a waterfront foot path that could connect 23 Pleasant Street to Grove Park and some type of connection between the South Natick Dam park and Grove Park so residents don't have to walk in the street. Ms. Partanen explains it is important to note, depending on what they do with the South Natick Dam, it could change the layout of these parks. The commission will need to wait for a decision to be made with the South Natick Dam, as well as reach out to residents to get their opinion before making any decisions regarding 23 Pleasant St.

- *Cole Center Playground Update:* Additional equipment for toddlers have been ordered and expected to be installed this spring.



# *Natick Recreation & Parks*

People Driven. Service Focused.

**Karen Partanen**  
Recreation & Parks  
Director

- *Loker Playground Update*: Additional equipment for this playground has been ordered. Mr. Szretter inquired about the tire swing at Navy Yard. Ms. Partanen explains the tire swing is under warranty and will touch base with Art Goodhind to check on the status.
- *Retitle some department positions*: Ms. Partanen is working with Human Resources and Administration on retitling some employees. Currently, everyone in our department reports directly to Ms. Partanen. Ms. Partanen would like to delegate responsibilities to Dan Keefe, Assistant Director, and Aaron Friedman, Program Director by changing their titles to assistant director of operations and requesting department employees report to Mr. Keefe and Mr. Friedman, who will then report to Ms. Partanen.

Mr. Brandt suggests inviting Jon Marshall to our next Commission Meeting to discuss the future of the Recreation and Parks department

## **Member Announcements/Concerns**

- *CRT*: The CRT was plowed prior to neighborhoods which received both positive and negative feedback from residents. No plans in the near future for any meetings.
- *NEETEGA*: The Clerk's Term is expiring April of this year 2022. Ms. Ordway states she would like to stay on as the Clerk which we will vote on at our April 4th meeting. The Annual Report was submitted on time, and on January 7th 2022 we filed a 990N. Income associated with NEETEGA totals to \$2,812.65, the expenses associated with NEETEGA total \$20,749.53. End of the year balances for our 3 accounts are as follows; Checking 46,538.92, A CD holding 42,841.71 maturing on March 7th 2022. CD with Middlesex that holds \$18,403.48 that Matures July 15, 2022. Totaling \$67,783.11. Mr. Szretter asks if we anticipate needing any of the funds from the CD or if we should renew them for another year. Ms. Ordway makes a motion to move the \$18,403.48 funds to our checking account to allow access and to open another CD for the amount totaling 42,841.71. Mr. Fair seconds that motion.  
8 in favor, 0 opposed, Motion passed.
- *PATH*: PATH is running in the Boston Marathon. Kathy Danielson, PATH representative, would like to step down as the head of PATH and it is sparking discussions about leadership and how to delegate that responsibility. At their last meeting with Melisaa Carter, Adaptive Programming Coordinator, PATH committed to donate \$30,000 to Arrowhead summer of 2022.
- *Open Space*: The upcoming meeting has the multipurpose court at 23 Pleasant Street on their agenda.
- *Charles River Dam*: Two new options were presented but were not able to be considered because the Office of Dam Safety has expressed they are not viable options. This leaves the town with the two original options; to repair or breach the dam. The Community Survey had around 600 responses and revealed everyone in Natick wants a little bit of everything. Mr. Levine states the survey didn't require residents to pick and choose specific things, resulting in information that does not lead to a decision.

Meeting called to adjourn by Mr. Ordway at 6:54pm. Seconded by Mr. Brandt.  
Motion passed unanimously

## **Next Meeting Date**

Monday March 7th, 2021, 6:00pm