



# *Natick Recreation & Parks*

People Driven. Service Focused.

**Karen Partanen**  
Recreation & Parks  
Director

Recreation and Parks Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2022

Present: Peg Waters, Kelly McPherson, Wayne Szretter, Seth Levine, Barbara Sanchez, Mike Fair, David Ordway, Jon Marshall, Deputy Town Administrator of Operations, Karen Partanen, Director, Andrea Verdelli, Recording secretary.

Absent: Jason Brandt, Jessica Ordway

Meeting called to order: at 6:00 pm.

**Minutes:** approval of minutes from 2.7.22

Motion to approve minutes made by Ms. Sanchez, seconded by Mr. Fair. Motion passes unanimously

## **Citizens Concerns:**

None

## **Guest:**

*Jon Marshall – Deputy Town Administrator of Operations:* Jon Marshall joins us today to discuss the future of the Recreation and Parks department. Jon intends to keep the department informed of any discussions happening with administration. One discussion that has been happening for a while is what the future of the building is and if that entails moving or repairing the current building we reside in. Some buildings administration has discussed moving our department to are the Eliot School at 5 Auburn St, the East School at 90 Oak St, or the Johnson School at 99 N Main St. Jon explains the process to move a whole department will take years and asks what the departments requirements are to successfully run to get a better understanding of what building would best suits our needs.

## **Directors Report:**

*Recreation Department Organizational Structural Update:* Ms. Partanen is updating commissioners on progress, we are still in communication with Town Administration to best organize department for future growth.

*Earth Day Event Requests:* Earth day is not going to be one single event on the common this year, it will be celebrated throughout parks in Natick on the weekend of April 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Partanen invites commissioners to organize something for Earth Day if they so choose.

*Playground Updates:* Parts for Navy Yard have been received and sent to be repaired by LFNR. Playground equipment for Cole have arrived, once the ground thaws we will install the Cole playground enhancements the spring. Loker Park's equipment has not been delivered to us.

*Masking update for programming:* Town and school buildings have lifted the mask mandate, and we are doing the same for our programs. We recommend program participants school aged to wear masks but



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we are not enforcing it, it is an option to accommodate comfortability, we advertise our department as mask friendly.

## **Common Requests:**

*-Scoopapalooza:* Charles River Rotary club for Scoopapalooza to host on Common on Sat, June 25 from 1:00-3:00 pm and a rain date on that Sunday.

*-Leaders of Action:* Eco Natick requests Earth Day events for April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.

(Updates to be presented to Ms. Verdelli as they develop)

Mr. Szretter moves to approve the common requests, seconded by Mr. Levine. Motion passes unanimously

## **Member Announcements:**

*CRT:* Mechanics St. will be repaved when the weather improves to allow for CRT parking and create more space in the Navy Yard Parking lot for residents hoping to enjoy the park. Ms. Waters asks that signage is placed at Navy Yard to direct people to the correct parking lot on Mechanics St.

*NEETEGA:* One of NEETEGA's missions is community service and would love to do something small for Earth Day.

*PATH:* The PATH Boston Marathon runner continues to raise money. Harry Nezbit has stepped forward to lead PATH in Kathy Danielson's place.

*Open Space:* No new updates.

*Charles River Dam:* This committee continues to gather information. After the December 3<sup>rd</sup> inspection of the dam, there has been a change in status. As expected, the condition is poor primarily due to the presents of mature trees on the earth dam. This was noted by the Department of Conservation and Recreation Office of Dam Safety to be the likely result of the next inspection. The dam will now be inspected every 6 months, as opposed to 2 years, until it is repaired or removed.

*Gazebo Repair:* No new updates.

Ms. McPherson adds regarding summer camp if our department could push back the timeline of releasing details before February vacation considering that is the time when most families are making summer plans. Ms. Sanchez suggests publicizing the reason for delays to explain to residents why we are delayed.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Ordway at (6:57) . Seconded by Ms. McPherson.

## **Next meeting date:**

April 4, 2022 at 6:00pm.