



Natick Recreation & Parks

People Driven. Service Focused.

Commission Meeting
Recreation and Parks
May 2, 2022

Peg Waters, Kelly McPherson, Barbara Sanchez, Jason Brandt, Seth Levine, Wayne Szretter, Mike Fair, Jessica Ordway, David Ordway, Karen Partanen, Recreation and Parks Director, Andrea Verdelli, Recording Secretary

Present: Peg Waters, Kelly McPherson, Seth Levine, David Ordway, Wayne Szretter, Barbara Sanchez, Mike Fair, Jason Brandt, Jessica Ordway, Karen Partanen, Recreation and Parks Director, and Andrea Verdelli, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes: Minutes from 4.4.22. Ms Sanchez moves to approve, Mr. Levine seconds. Motion passed.

Citizens Concerns:

None

Directors Report:

Beach Fes: For 2022 there is a 7-day seasonal pass available for Natick residents. There is a family discount for families of 4 or more to encourage larger families to enjoy the beach as well as a new discounted nanny fee for caretakers. We are requiring the nanny pass be purchased in person in order to process the discount. We are once again allowing non-residents. Fees are different for weekday vs weekend for single day passes.

Playground Updates: New playground we were advised not to dig into the ground due to tree roots so we created sides and raised the playground which blends seamlessly with the older playground. New installation includes 2 belt swings, an infant swing and a toddler play structure, the playground is now open and available to use at the Cole Center. Signage will be posted thanking those who donated; Town Capitol, BAA, Roch Bros, and a local neighborhood. Loker playground equipment has been delivered to the Cole Center but we are waiting for Gametime to provide manpower to install the equipment. SPARK Kindness would like to work with us to post promotional signage in our parks and fields regarding good sportsmanship, reminding parents and coaches to maintain a positive atmosphere.

Summer Program and Camp Update: Program registration is ongoing with a lot of last minute sign ups – people waiting till last minute. Registration numbers are back on track to previous years.



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Earth Day Recap & Follow Up: Camp Arrowhead grounds look fantastic; Melissa was pleased to see the results while running her program there on Saturday night. Ms. McPherson stated it was a beautiful day and around 50 volunteers came bright and early to help clean up. Mr. Szretter stated some walkers on the Cochituate Rail Trail saw what was happening and decided to join the clean-up.

Department Organization for Summer 2022: Dan Keefe, Assistant Director is leaving the department in July. The department does not plan on filling the position at this time of year because we are not able to effectively go through the hiring and training process in the middle of summer, which is our busiest time of year. If the new Adventure Weeks camp does not fill, Lauren Maurer will be absorbing Dan's responsibilities regarding Memorial Beach, if it does fill, there are plenty of eligible and experienced beach managers to promote.

Navy Yard Tire Swing: Mr. Keefe has been in communication w Mr. Goodhind. We now have all the parts to fix this piece. The certificated a playground inspector is new and Mr. Goodhind is not comfortable with him doing the tire swing for one of his first assignments. Mr. Keefe will contact the company who originally built the playground to come out directly to install that piece.

Reading Rooms into parks; Community and economic development has received a grant to include 20 Adirondack chairs to put in Shaw Park. Another grant was received to install reading rooms at Shaw Park and the Cole Center. Ms. Partanen would like to tie in the Adirondack chairs with the reading rooms and call to artists to paint these chairs. Ms. McPherson suggests getting plastic not wood and suggests adding one at the Dog Park as well.

Common Requests:

Tour de Natick: Requesting to host Mr. Ordway moves to approve, Mr. Fair seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Announcements:

CRT: Signage will be placed directing bikers to Mechanic street and LaGrange street. "Walk bike through park" sign. Mechanic street lot is on a work schedule determined by time and money. If there is not enough money, they would still open up lot for parking with lining, without paving.

NEETEGA: Frosty 5K last year rose \$299.99 and NEETEGA shared 50% with PATH (\$149.99).

PATH: No New Updates

Charles River Dam: Town Meeting approved \$35,000 to develop a plan to tie in Pleasant St. multipurpose with south Natick Dam Park.



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Open Space: Concerns about Pleasant St. multipurpose courts not being involved in south Natick Dam Park plans.

Gazebo Repair: Mr. Szretter spoke with Mr. Goodhind will be following up with the architect. We are awaiting bluerprints so we can move onto the next step.

CPA: CPA passed to go on ballot on the fall town meeting. Ms. Waters states at our June, July, or August meeting we will discuss and make a decision if we want to make a stand.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Ordway at 6:32. Seconded by Ms. Sanchez. Motion Passed.

Next meeting date:

June 6, 2022 at 6:00 in person at the Community Senior Center.