

**Dover Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting of May 6, 2009
Minutes**

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: John Budd, Barry Cullen, Peter Davies, Rich Oasis, Nancy Simms

P&R Employees In Attendance: Jessica Cooney, David MacTavish

Others In Attendance: Scott Seidman – Warrant Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:33am.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from March and April meetings were not available for review.

Town Meeting Review

P&R's operating budget was approved without discussion as was its capital request for a new tractor. P&R employees and commissioners were relieved that Article 11, addressing repairs to the Caryl Building, was also approved.

Two P&R commissioners were separately approached by individuals concerned about mold inside the Caryl School. P&R will pass the comments on to the Selectmen and the Dover Community Center Building Committee.

Newspaper Article

P&R will submit three articles to the local paper prior to the end of the school year. The first will explain the safety and maintenance issues at Caryl Park. The second will discuss the increase in the number of children involved in youth sports, the added wear and tear this has put on our existing fields, and the scheduling challenges this has created. The third article will discuss the Preliminary Study P&R will attempt to fund in order to address the reconfiguration of the Caryl Park fields.

Goal Safety

Rich Oasis and Dave MacTavish spoke about the danger associated with kids climbing on the lacrosse goals at both Chickering and Caryl fields. Both have spoken to parents about keeping children off these structures.

Dover Days Fair Date – move to September 12th

Because of the conflict with Rosh Hashanah which falls on September 19 this year, P&R will hold its Dover Days celebration one week earlier, on September 12, 2009.

Greg Dowd – Baseball Dugouts

The Matthew Dennis Dowd Casino Night event to raise money for dugouts on the ball field next to the Caryl Park tennis courts was held on April 25 at the German Club on Route 109. The dugouts are being installed in memory of Matt Dowd who succumbed to ALS in 2005. P&R has agreed to fund and install fencing for this otherwise privately-funded project. Dave expects to hear from Greg soon on the amount of money raised at this year's event.

Eliot Hodgkins Memorial Fishing Derby

The Eliot Hodgkins Memorial Fishing Derby was held on Sunday, April 19. Attendance at this year's event was one of the highest ever. P&R recouped almost all of its trout stocking cost!

"Community Center" / Turf Fields at Caryl Park

P&R will collaborate with the DCCBC to identify costs associated with the athletic facility portion of a community center.

P&R will request financial donations from the various youth sport clubs in town to complete the two-field portion of the Caryl Park study begun in 2008 by Camp Dresser McKee. Dave will contact CDM for an updated cost to complete figure. Although it is believed that the time necessary to complete such a study would be 4 to 6 months, Dave will request that the work be completed by September 1, 2009. Once this phase of the project is complete (the preliminary study), the second phase would be to prepare the final bid documents which is estimated to run \$50,000 to \$60,000.

The third and final phase would be to fund and execute the plans selected through the final bid process. A private fundraising effort would be undertaken to reduce the public cost of the potential field reconfiguration project. In-person presentations would be given to all youth sports groups and other like-minded interest groups in town. P&R has a private gift fund already established for such donations, however, any large donations must be "accepted" from the Board of Selectmen.

Trees & Driveway at Caryl Park

To improve the driving safety at Caryl Park, the driveway has been relocated several feet west and directly across from Park Avenue, and the hill east of the park has been cut back improving visibility in that direction.

Defibrillators on playing fields

Last year P&R purchased five defibrillators. The batteries in all five of these life saving devices have recently been replaced. Coaches of all youth sports teams have received training on these devices. Player fees have been increased to cover the \$1,500 per session cost of training so that the coaches don't have to pay for this training out of their own pockets. Attendance at the training sessions is the responsibility of each individual league and not P&R. Coaches who attend a training session receive a wallet-size certification card. That being said, the devices are user-friendly with step by step instructions.

P&R encourages anyone in the vicinity of a heart-stopping incident to proceed to the storage box and follow the defibrillator instructions for use. Dover EMTs should be called at 9-1-1 by another person present.

P&R has received a lot of positive feedback from parents in particular who are thrilled that these devices are on the fields. Each defibrillator is housed in a bright yellow storage box which is pad locked. The code to unlock the box is "0-0-0". One storage box is behind the Chickering field backstop. Another is behind the backstop at the Caryl Park baseball field nearest the tennis courts. A third is next to the new Caryl Park field storage shed across from Park Avenue.

The fourth and fifth defibrillators are located inside Chickering School near the gym and inside the Caryl School also near the gym. These last two are not locked. (?????)

Miscellaneous

Rich Oasis attended the Open Space Committee meeting last night. He reported that the Committee is concerned about the amount of water needed to irrigate the Chickering and Caryl Park playing fields.

Nancy Simms had no new information to report from the Dover Community Center Building Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Simms - Secretary, P&R Commission