

**Dover Parks and Recreation Commission  
Meeting of September 3, 2009  
Minutes**

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: John Budd, Rich Oasis, Scott Seidman, Nancy Simms,  
P&R Employees In Attendance: Jessica Cooney, David MacTavish  
Others in Attendance: Jim Kinder (Warrant Committee)

**Meeting was called to order at 7:35am.**

**Prior Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from March, July and August were not available. All other minutes have been approved and submitted to the town clerk.

**Community Center Update**

The Selectman voted to change the name of the committee from the Dover Community Center Building Committee (DCCBC) to the Caryl Community Center Building Committee (CCCBC), "the Committee". The Committee has encouraged P&R to expand its offerings, especially those of potential interest to adults aged 20 to 60. The Committee believes that a plan for the Community Center will be more widely accepted by the townspeople if it can be demonstrated that the building currently is full of diverse programs.

Nancy shared that the idea of programs sponsored by a coalition of the various program groups in Dover was discussed in detail. The program groups are defined as P&R, COA, the Library and Community Education. Joint sponsorship demonstrates cohesion and collaboration among these groups, allows email access to a larger number of potential attendees, and demonstrates to the Warrant Committee that these groups are trying creative ways to grow their programs without growing their budgets. It was agreed that Jess would contact her counterparts at the other three organizations and schedule a second meeting. In the future, the town may want to consider establishing an enterprise fund to facilitate the collaboration between these program groups. The advantage of such a fund is that salaries can be paid out of it, so someone could be hired to coordinate the various community center programs.

The Committee has requested that P&R meet with the Dover School Committee and/or Chairman Bob Springett separately to gauge its/his interest in locating an athletic facility on the Chickering School site. Although the Alternative Site Location Sub-committee of the DCCBC researched this and other sites some time ago, their focus was on possible feasible locations for a full community center and not just an athletic facility. Dave will approach Bob Springett about this new idea.

The Selectmen have asked Superintendent Valerie Spriggs to report back to them in January regarding the future of the CDC. The Selectmen stipulated that if CDC wished to remain in a new Caryl Community Center, the CDC would have to incur the costs of space improvements necessary to stay in compliance with child care regulations as all space within the community center would have to be constructed for general use.

Members of the Committee, specifically, Chairman Ford Spalding and Don Mills, have asked to attend our October meeting to present their new idea of locating a gym on the second floor of the existing old building.

### **Open Space Update**

Rich reported that the Rail to Trail project will be on the agenda for the next Open Space meeting. It was agreed that this project is one that P&R would likely support and could facilitate additional P&R course offerings (biking, roller blading, nature studies). However, given that P&R is currently busy with two big projects (Caryl Field renovation and the Community Center), there was little interest in taking any kind of leadership role at this time.

### **Turf Fields at Caryl Park / Reconfiguration Study - Funding**

Discussion centered on raising funds for formal schematics for the Caryl Park reconfiguration from the various sports groups in town. John Budd has spoken with Gary Brach who just stepped down as a baseball/softball commissioner; John told Gary P&R was looking for \$7,500 from baseball/softball. Separately, Dave spoke with Jay Gately who is a new baseball/softball commissioner; there was no specific ask. There is an "all coaches" meeting for the soccer club on 9/9 from 7:00 to 8:30 in the Chickering School gym. Dave will attend and make the pitch. Additionally, Dave received commitments earlier in the summer from two residents for \$2,500 each; he will follow up with each of them.

Of all the groups, soccer will get the most benefit from turf fields. Without them, spring soccer will be limited in its field availability. The benefits for baseball/softball is that Dover would get a dedicated girls softball field and there would no longer be conflicts with girls lacrosse for the Caryl Park fields (CP2 and CP3 which are used for grades 2 and 3). Baseball would also gain full control of scheduling for these two fields. Although it is a spring sport, lacrosse has asked for field space in the fall in order to run clinics for boys and girls of all ages. This is further proof of the explosive growth in lacrosse popularity. Peter will solicit the lacrosse programs. Dave will solicit the soccer programs and will follow up on John's conversation with Gary Brach and on his conversation with Jay Gately to cover the baseball/softball programs.

### **Revolving Fund Usage**

The town accountant has certified that the P&R total overage in the revolving fund is \$41,032.

With a vote of 4 – 0, it was agreed that these funds would be used as follows:

- \$19,400 for Caryl building upgrades, including re-carpeting and painting the library and the classroom next Erin's dance studio; re-finishing of the gym floor; replacing the vacuum cleaner; and purchasing adult-sized (probably cushioned folding) chairs and tables.
- \$10,000 for machinery equipment, including an insulated cab and a blade for the new John Deere tractor which will be used to clear Channing Pond for skating. These are items that will be needed this winter and therefore cannot be funded through this year's capital budget. Originally, they were in our FY2010 capital budget request but were eliminated at the request of the Warrant Committee in order to reduce the town's capital budget expense for the year.
- \$11,632 to supplement our field maintenance fund.

### **Town Common Signage**

Justine Kent, representing The League of Women Voters, was invited to attend today's meeting to discuss a permanent "Town Clerk" Sign to be placed on the Town Common. Justine was not able to be present. She will be invited to our October meeting.

### **Lightening damage to Chickering and Caryl irrigation systems**

The irrigation system at Caryl and Chickering took several hits from lightening this spring. The cost to repair the system was approximately \$3,500. Payment for these repairs were made through the town's insurance policy net of the \$1,000 deductible which was assigned to the town's insurance fund as set forth at the 2009 town meeting.

### **Dover Days Fair**

The Dover Days Fair will be held on Saturday, September 12. Jess needs help selling tickets and received commitments from all commissioners. In addition, there will be 10 high school students volunteering their time in exchange for community service credit. Dave and Jess have addressed last year's confusion over the two types of tickets sold at the event. There will be a red and white TICKETS tent identifying the P&R central ticket window. There also will be ticket sellers walking throughout the fair to alleviate waiting lines at the ticket window. Additionally, the Dover PTO has requested that the site for their fundraising games, petting zoo, and prize table be moved away from the commotion of the inflatable attractions. This segregation will also help to eliminate some confusion over tickets.

Two signs have been made for event. One is a general sign that will be displayed to advertise the fair; this will be put up on Town Common this week. The other sign is a generic Start/Finish sign for the 5k pumpkin run although it can be used for any race. These signs are sturdy and designed to last several years.

### **Jess's Directors' School**

Jess reported that her week-long course in Wheeling, WV was very productive and informative. Other Massachusetts attendees included P&R professionals from Brookline, Lexington, Southboro and Wayland. Key topics of interest included the growing trend toward "non-stop programs"- combining P&R and COA and the move away from folding the "parks" portion of "P&R" departments into DPW or Highway departments due to the loss of quality control and its impact on P&R programs.

### **Dog Control on Caryl Field**

Dog owners continue to allow their dogs to run on Caryl Field despite signs prohibiting the practice. Most of the traffic seems to come from people heading from the parking lot into Noanet woods. Yellow caution tape has now be strung from the end of the backdrop to the edge of the field along the back (south) end of the field and from the other end of the backdrop to parking lot railing along the west end of the field. It is hoped that the yellow caution tape will help owners remember to walk around Caryl field, rather than across it, as they make their way into Noanet.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:55am.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Simms, P&R Commission Secretary