

**Dover Parks and Recreation Commission  
Meeting of March 3, 2010  
Minutes**

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: Peter Davies, Rich Oasis, Scott Seidman, Nancy Simms

P&R Employees In Attendance: Jess Cooney

Others In Attendance: Andy Waugh (Warrant Committee); Kathleen Mitchell, Sue Mosher (Oakley Road residents)

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

**Prior Meeting Minutes**

December, January and February minutes were approved as amended.

**Citizen Comments**

Kathleen Mitchell expressed her appreciation for the efforts to date by P&R on the Caryl Park Reconfiguration project. She requested that P&R honor the open meeting rules and answer citizens questions honestly and fully. She asked that P&R provide more open disclosure of information so that citizens can educate themselves on the issues prior to town meeting. She cited specifically: George Chickering's will, anticipated hours new fields would be used, breakdown of participants based on town of residence (Dover vs. Sherborn), health and safety warnings and findings, full disclosure of short term and long term costs, environmental and cost issues of carpet disposal, and private sponsorship opportunities.

She continued to say that it had come to her attention that in its presentation to the Warrant Commission on February 24<sup>th</sup>, P&R had reported that the abutters were "on board" with the plan. She stated that this was not the case and admonished P&R for taking the liberty to say so.

Regarding the traffic concerns, Mrs. Mitchell contended that for the abutters, the traffic issue is not traffic speed along Dedham Street, but traffic congestion.

She concluded by asking P&R to think about the field needs of the entire town rather than the field needs of just P&R and how as a town those needs could best be met. She suggested that the Farm Street fields might serve the town's needs better than the Caryl Park fields.

The Commissioners thanked her for her input and briefly addressed her points.

- It was never stated by or implied by P&R to the Warrant Committee that the abutters were "on board". Mrs. Mitchell was asked to get back to whomever her source was to correct this rumor and to copy P&R on her written clarification. These rumors are helpful to no one.
- P&R is working hard to ensure full transparency of our efforts. The information we have shared to date is the information we have. Every week we are collecting new information and are learning new things. All the information we have at the time has been and will be shared at each of our public meetings. We are not withholding any information.
- P&R asked Mrs. Mitchell to send us the information or the website links to the information she has uncovered regarding the health and safety concerns around artificial turf fields.

Mrs. Mosher expressed her frustration with the timing of the traffic study currently underway. She and Mrs. Mitchell wanted to be on the record as being opposed to lights on the fields.

### **Child Development Center Proposal**

Earlier this calendar year, Community Education (“ComEd”) informed the Board of Selectmen that at the end of this academic year, it would be closing the Child Development Center (“CDC”) currently operating out of the Caryl Community Center. (The CDC has historically paid all of the utility costs for the Caryl Community Center which have totaled approximately \$80,000 per year.) One of the CDC parents, Courtenay Cabot Venton, has organized a group of parents that is trying to enable the CDC to continue operating outside of ComEd. She had originally approached Dave and Jess about running the CDC through P&R as a P&R sponsored program. The P&R Commissioners informed Dave and Jess that there was little interest on their part to taking on the unique challenges of certifying and operating a day care center. Mrs. Venton then took her proposal to Dave Ramsey and currently is working through him with the Board of Selectmen to achieve her goals of keeping the CDC active next year. Through Jess, Mrs. Venton expressed her appreciation to P&R for its support and guidance.

### **Soccer Meeting – 3/30 at 7:30pm**

The Dover Sherborn Soccer Club (“DSSC”) has a coaches meeting scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Scott will attend the meeting to present a summary to date of the Caryl Park Reconfiguration project and to answer questions.

### **Caryl Park Reconfiguration Project Update**

In response to concerns raised by attendees at the recent public meetings, P&R has hired Vanasse Hangen Brustlin to conduct a traffic study along Dedham Street with specific attention to the access points in and out of Caryl Park. To save time and money, Dave copied and sent to Vanasse Bob Homer’s traffic study from five years ago and the MAPC study done last year in anticipation of the speed bump installation along Dedham Street. The results from Vanasse’s work are expected in two to three weeks.

### **Next steps:**

- March 22 Warrant Committee Open Hearing – Andy Waugh suggested that we would be allotted 10 to 15 minutes to discuss our article.
- Senior Tea Presentations
- Spring Coaches Meetings
  - Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 for heads of all soccer and lacrosse youth clubs
  - Present at club coaches meetings
    - Soccer: 3/30 at 7:30 – Scott
    - Boys lacrosse: TBD
    - Girls lacrosse: TBD
    - Baseball: TBD
    - Softball: TBD
    - Middle school Field Hockey: TBD
    - Middle school Football: TBD
- Town Committee Meetings
  - Open Space Committee: Tuesday, March 2 at 7:30pm - Rich
  - Police, Highway, BOS : Monday, March 8 at 9:30am – Dave, Jess, Nancy
  - Board of Health: Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm – Scott, Dave
  - Planning Board: Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm – Rich, Peter
  - Regional School Committee/Dover Warrant/Sherborn Advisory: Monday at 7:30pm - Nancy
  - Fire Engineers: TBD
  - Conservation Commission: TBD
  - Regional School Committee: TBD
- Written confirmation of compliance/agreement/support from above
- Address issue raised by BOS regarding Sherborn participants’ role in the project – current and future: It was agreed to raise this issue with the youth sports club leaders on Wednesday, 3/10.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of assessing a surcharge per season per sport to all participants for all P&R programs (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) that use the fields. An account could be established that would be specific to funding the cost of the carpet replacement so that rather than being a future tax payer expense it would become a user expense. Additional discussion was held regarding the possibility of establishing a two-tiered fee structure with non-Dover residents paying a surcharge for all P&R programs that use the fields. Jess was asked to look into how Westwood and Needham structure their Pop Warner Football fees; there are several Dover children who participate in these programs as Dover does not field its own Pop Warner teams.

It was suggested that going forward, a P&R commissioner attend as many of the town committee meetings as possible. The purpose would be to answer any impromptu questions and to quell any false rumors before they became pandemic. The town's March meeting calendar was reviewed.

**Miscellaneous**

Nothing to discuss.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:20am.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Simms, P&R Commissioner