

**Dover Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting of May 31, 2013
Minutes**

P&R Commissioners In Attendance: Chris Boland, Peter Davies, Scott Seidman, Nancy Simms, Eric Loeffler (not voting today because he has not been sworn in yet)

P&R Employees In Attendance: David MacTavish, Mark Ghiloni

Others In Attendance: Jim Dawley (BOS), James Stuart (WC), Maureen Sullivan (DS Press), Hayden Bird (Hometown Weekly)

Citizens in Attendance: Kaveri and Bethany Correll, Gerald Clarke, Catherine White, Stuart Swiny, Betsy Seeley, James Powers, Barbara Palmer, Amanda Dickerson, Sally Helwig

The meeting was called to order at 7:45am.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Acceptance of Minutes

Motions were made and seconded to approve minutes from April 22, 2013 and May 17, 2013. 4-0 for both.

Upcoming Meetings

- P&R – Friday, June 21 at 7:30am.
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, June 12 at 7:30pm
- Planning Board – Monday, June 17 at 7:30pm (likely to be canceled)

Re-organizing Park and Recreation Commission

Chris was nominated to serve as Chairman; seconded and approved 3-0 (Scott not present for vote)

Scott was nominated to serve as Secretary; seconded and approved 4-0.

Peter was nominated to serve as Treasurer; seconded and approved 4-0.

Upcoming Planning Board and Conservation Commission Meetings

Planning Board – The Planning Board has postponed its meeting with P&R several times; the current meeting date is Monday, June 17 at 7:30pm. With the town voting against the Caryl Park turf field project, there is no project upon which to base a planning board hearing. Motion was made to withdraw the current plan for the Caryl Park turf fields project; seconded and approved 4-0. Nancy will call Mark Sarro to confirm our understanding.

Conservation Commission – Goddard Engineering has completed its work. The Conservation Commission engineering consultant has completed his work. Cheney Engineering has completed its work. Gale Associates has completed its work. The work covered the Caryl Park property from the stream to Dedham Street and from east to west property lines. Going before ConCom with this study documents the wetlands condition of the property and would allow P&R to move forward with a variety of projects. Chris will call Kate Faulkner to confirm our understanding and to make sure that is logical from ConCom's perspective to have us present to them.

RECREATION

Summer Programming Update

Forty young people applied for counselor positions for Summer Playground. Twelve were selected, six of whom are returning counselors or CITs. There will be five or six new CITs. One hundred children currently are

registered to attend Summer Playground. Ages are Kindergarten through 4th grade. The camp will run for five weeks from July 1 through August 2.

Summer Concert Series

Summer concerts will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm beginning July 2 and ending August 6. They will be held on Town Common. The concert series is not a breakeven program and P&R has reached out to various local businesses to see if there is interest in underwriting. Bridgewater Credit Union and Needham Bank were cited as possibilities. Dave will contact both.

Archery

This is a very popular program in neighboring towns; Dave will check with Dave Ramsay to make sure there are no liability issues with P&R offering this program. The vendor is Golden Arrow and they are fully insured. They have certified instructors. They come highly recommended by P&R departments in neighboring towns. It is contemplated that the program will be offered once a week for four weeks in August.

John Smith Soccer

John Smith will offer a sports camp from 1:00pm to 4:00pm during the last two weeks in July. The camp will be held at Chickering Field and will piggyback off Summer Playground which ends at 12:00noon. Children who will attend the John Smith camp will eat lunch at Summer Playground and will be escorted to Chickering Field at 1:00pm.

PARKS

Memorial Day Tournament

The Needham Soccer Tournament used Chickering and Caryl fields again this year. There were no reported problems.

Fall Field Closure

Last year (Fall 2012), Caryl Field was rested. The year before it was the back Chickering field. This year it will be the front Chickering Field. Next week, Dave will walk all three fields with the field maintenance consultant to determine whether we will need to close a second field in addition to the front Chickering field.

Other – New Business

There were no bids for the Tennis court maintenance project. Dave will rewrite the RFP to incorporate the concerns of some of the contractors who did not bid. He will eliminate the requirement that the material supply contractor from Maryland be onsite to approve the work; instead, the contractor will be required to submit a letter to the material supplier. The contractor will have a performance bond.

Meeting schedules

P&R meetings will be held at 7:30am on the last Friday of each month.

Field Shortage

Dave will ask Heath for the high school stadium turf field schedule. Is there any time during the week that youth sports could use the stadium field or one of the other fields? Could weekend games be played on the stadium turf field so as to minimize the wear and tear on our grass fields?

Chris will call the school superintendent to discuss the possibility of using fields at the region; unlikely that field fee will be waived.

Chris will contact Boosters to discuss their renovation plans and to determine if there are any time slots proposed for youth sports.

Chris will call Sherborn recreation commissioner to confirm field availability in Sherborn. Laurel and Fessenden in the past have been rented out to private users which have limited availability for DS youth sports.

The sports that are the toughest on the grass fields are boys lacrosse (5&6 and 7&8) and 11v11 soccer (7&8).

We need in depth information on fields and field usage:

1. Wear and tear by sport and by gender and by age
2. Irrigation options – drought can drop the water table; we are vulnerable to the weather. Do we need additional water supply?

Lacrosse has become a turf game. Field hockey too. Can the youth teams in these sports use the stadium field? If it's only for games, how will practicing on grass fields impact the teams? There is a direct benefit to the high school program to have the youth feeder teams playing on turf.

Chris will meet with Scott Goddard to review his work to date and to discuss ConCom meeting details.

Citizens' Comments

Citizens in attendance provided the following input:

- Question regarding use of regional fields – is the limitation legislative or public opinion? Perhaps Dover and Sherborn parents need to come together to put more pressure on the entities in charge.
- We need more field inventory.
- Girls sports have grown exponentially in the last ten years, partially as a result of title 9. All good, but it's putting the squeeze on available field space.
- It would be helpful to have a schedule of which fields are being used when and by whom. Could this be made available to the public?
- Perhaps it's time to put middle school sports back in the budget for the schools and let the schools worry about field space and field maintenance for the 6, 7, and 8 grade athletes?
- Dover lost a great opportunity at Elm Bank when the town voted against accepting the offered long-term lease for the property. Natick and Wellesley now enjoy the use of numerous sports fields there.
- Can Sherborn provide more fields for youth sports? They do have more baseball fields than we do and have the only softball fields and have more 11v11 fields than Dover, so it does even out in the big picture.
- Doesn't Dover handle all the scheduling for all the sports and Sherborn does nothing? No the clubs handle their own scheduling
- The Boosters fields (MSH fields) are beautiful but kids report they aren't being used. The fields are being used every night in the spring by boys lacrosse. JV lacrosse practices there every afternoon in the spring. Boys and girls JV soccer practice there in the fall. Weekends the fields are used by K-2 soccer. Boosters spent \$30,000 to put in irrigation on those fields, but the fields are still not in great shape. There have been a number of broken legs, ankles. Ticks are a problem. Parents don't like having their 3rd and 4th grade children walking the quarter mile back to the fields from the parking lot. Not an ideal location.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Simms, P&R Commissioner