

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
September 7, 2010**

In attendance: David Rawlings, David Putnam, Sean Durkin, Sean McCann, Allison Lane and Michelle Lyseth.

6:35pm—Meeting called to order.

6:36pm—June Minutes. Dave Rawlings (DR) made a motion to approve the June minutes, motion seconded by Sean McCann (SM), motion passed 4-0.

6:37pm—DPW Report. Kara Buzanoski (KB), DPW Director, was not able to attend the meeting but had forwarded her report (attached) to the Commission members, which SM read aloud.

6:45pm—Recreation Report by Allie Lane (AL). AL first mentioned the proposal to have the track widened at Ellsworth-McAfee park. SM asked if it was a priority, to which AL replied “It’s a priority for those who use the park and the track.” AL said that the track is actually the original track and is over 17 years old; she said that it’s uneven, grass is growing over the edges at points, and it’s difficult for kids riding their bikes on it or parents with strollers. She would like to have the asphalt removed, have the track widened from 5 feet wide to 7 feet wide, and have it repaved. The project is on hold now, KB is getting a quote. AL will make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) at the next BOS meeting on October 18th, and will move forward pending approval from the BOS.

AL next told the Board that she has created a ‘Friends of Northborough Recreation’ group that will assist in fundraising efforts for the Recreation Department. AL said that this group was created since the Recreation Department isn’t allowed to fundraise, being a town department. Funds need to be raised in order to provide financial assistance for families in need. Such assistance would allow Recreation to provide scholarships for children to attend camp or programs for free or for a reduced rate. There are six committee members in the Friends group, and two fundraisers will be held yearly. DP noted the irony of AL having to create a Friends group for Recreation fundraising while also being the point person for fundraising for Parks.

Discussion followed regarding lining the fields at MMS.

7:32pm—Old Business.

- **Park Vandalism.** DP asked if there had been further vandalism at the parks; AL said no.
- **Dogs at the Park.** AL said that she met with John Coderre (JC), Town Administrator, and Claudia McGuire (CM), Town Dog Officer, regarding the issue of dogs in the Town’s parks. AL said they have decided to try one more tactic before proposing banning dogs from the parks. They are going to purchase pet waste receptacles for Ellsworth-McAfee Park, Casey and Memorial fields. Signs (see attached) created by CM will also be posted at the parks, warning people to dispose of their pet waste otherwise risk dogs being banned at the parks and fields. SD said that he had thought the Parks and Rec Commission had voted to ban dogs but AL said that she wanted to try this for one more season, a last ditch effort that hopefully will be recognized by the public as a final warning. DP is ‘decidedly against’ this decision.
- **Community Gardens.** AL said that the first Obesity grant application was denied but was successful a second time. Funding was awarded, with most of the funding going towards water and providing materials for having raised garden beds built. The beds are being built by Mike Strickland as part of an Eagle Scout project. AL said that the Recreation Department will begin

publicizing the rentals of garden space over the winter with rentals beginning in spring, although AL is unsure whether or not she will charge for the first year or not.

- **Missing Triple Bagger.** SD still has not found the lawn mower, stolen over the summer, although he said he came close.

7:45pm—New Business.

- **Next Commission Meeting.** The next Commission meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 6:30pm.
- **Sprinkler Heads at MMS.** SD thinks that the gang mower is damaging sprinkler heads at MMS. He's repaired 17 so far at a cost of approximately \$2000 to Northborough Baseball. He said 'they disappear...it's random and all over the place...' and that he's not sure of a solution.

7:58—Meeting Adjourned.