

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
October 5, 2010**

Approved by the Commission at the January 4, 2011 Commission Meeting.

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

6:40pm—Meeting called to order.

6:41pm—September Minutes. Dave Rawlings (DR) made a motion to approve the September minutes, motion seconded by Sean McCann (SM), motion passed 4-0.

6:43pm—Recreation Report. Allie Lane (AL). AL had a couple of items to discuss relative to Ellsworth-McAfee Park. First, AL suggested reassessing the issue of dogs at Town parks after the fall. Next, the snail feature in the playground has to be replaced again. This is the second time it has had to be replaced; this last time, Jim Wing (JW) said he witnessed the spring breaking after use by an ‘average-sized kid’. AL said the piece is under warranty but she will have it replaced with a ladybug feature, which hopefully will be more durable.

AL next discussed the different events that Recreation is involved with this fall. The annual ‘Scarecrow-Building’ day was again a hit, this year with 28 families participating. The scarecrows line the fence outside of Assabet Park. October 16 is the next scheduled event with Recreation partnering with the schools to host ‘Northborough Stands Against Bullying’ on October 16; this event includes a 5K road race, with proceeds going towards anti-bullying education, and a Fun Day sponsored by Recreation, with bouncy houses and a dj, as well as food for sale by Texas BBQ. Several of the commissioners volunteered to help with the event but AL said she has plenty of staff coming. AL also has a Halloween event on October 30 that will include a costume parade and contest, Halloween egg hunt and pumpkin painting.

Lastly, AL told the board that Recreation is working on the next winter brochure. She said that the bid system used for the fall brochure, as instructed by John Coderre (JC), Town Administrator, wasn’t effective in generating ad sales and that Recreation only brought in about a quarter of the ad sales as compared to previous brochures. AL said that Recreation will return to the lottery system for the winter brochure. No other news to report.

6:50pm—DPW Report by Kara Buzanoski (KB). KB noted that it was ‘business as usual’ for the DPW. She said they are ‘trying to cut the grass’ but they are down five people. She said the ‘big belly solar trash compactor’ is in use at South Street. JW mentioned that he recently spotted graffiti at the same park, on the skate park along the field side. KB next went on to say that the leak at the splash pad has not been fixed yet. It’s unknown where the leak is originating from, and the line runs from the shed to anyone of three different heads, so the concrete pad of the splash pad area may need to be cut to find the source. KB estimated that the concrete was approximately 6” deep, but Sean Durkin (SD) thought it was deeper than that, having once been a wading pool. AL also mentioned that the water tank at the top of Assabet Hill had a major leak before Recreation’s Scarecrow Building event, with water ‘rushing down the hill to the basketball court’. KB said that the ‘control valve to the MWRA got stuck and kept filling’ which lead to the overflow.

Lastly, KB mentioned the newly erected ‘Peace Pole’ at Assabet Park. It is located on the right hand side of the gate, if one was to take the path from the Splash Pad to the playground, near the park’s children’s

memorial. The Peace Pole is roughly six feet high and features the word ‘peace’ spelled out in eight different languages. The Peace Pole was installed in time for the second annual United Nations International Day of Peace, which was September 21. The Northborough Junior Women’s League hosted a candlelight vigil at that time.

6:55pm—Old Business.

- **Field Usage Form Revision.** AL changed the tier structure of the field usage request to add a new tier for ‘Private for Profit’ organizations, so that Recreation can rent the fields to non-residents during the summer months. The charge is \$70 per hour, which is what AL found was an average of what other Towns charge. Dave Putnam (DP) said that \$70 is ‘a funny number’ and Dave Rawlings (DR) said ‘\$75 is better’. DP said that if lining needs to be done, he can donate the turf paint. AL said she will be renting Ellsworth-McAfee to Mass Premier Soccer for a summer clinic. Discussion followed, and the commission decided along with AL to amend the form further. Tier 2 will be Northborough Youth Groups and Northborough/Southborough Youth Groups; Tier 3 will be 100% Northborough Adult Residents. DR has reservations about the changes but didn’t speak on it at this time. JW asked AL if she foresees any issues for spring, regarding field usage requests; AL said no, and that Lacrosse has already submitted spring requests, well in advance of the January deadline, and that they are satisfied with what they were given last year and that they are requesting the same for the spring.
- **Community Gardens.** AL said that ten community garden boxes have been built at Valentine Road and water is in. DP asked how the plots will be given out and suggested a lottery system. AL said she didn’t think that the gardens would be that much in demand by the public but DP disagreed.
- **Peace Pole.** The Commission is in favor of having the Peace Pole located permanently at its spot at Assabet Park.

7:05pm—New Business.

- **Next Commission Meeting.** The next Commission meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 6:30pm.

7:07pm—Meeting Adjourned.