

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
April 5, 2016**

Approved Unanimously at the September 6, 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

In attendance: David Putnam, Faith Stevens, Sean Durkin, Sean McCann, Dan Nason, Scott Charpentier, David Robillard, Allison Lane and Michelle Lyseth; guest Tom Lowe.

5:35pm—Meeting called to order.

5:38pm—March Minutes Approved. Sean McCann (SM) made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting in March providing that the minutes are amended to include himself in attendance. Faith Stevens (FS) seconded the motion, all in favor.

5:40pm—Recreation Report. Allie Lane (AL) said that registration is going very well for spring and summer programming and many summer programs are filling already. She said that Recreation is up by \$141,000 compared to this time last year. Next, she told the commission about a recent incident in the gym where a child was injured during a birthday party run by the Rec Dept. The child needed stitches after cutting his leg on a nail that was slightly raised from the gym floor. Inspection of the gym floor revealed several more nails that are up as a result of apparent ‘settling’. AL met with a representative from a flooring company and was waiting for a quote. Dave Putnam (DP) asked if ‘it was too late’ [to submit an application for CPC funds] for Town Meeting; AL said yes.

AL next said she wanted to discuss plans for a future dog park in Town. AL said she thinks the Yellick Conservation property is perfect but she was denied usage in that capacity by the State. AL wants to meet with the Trails Committee to brainstorm. She said that it’s well known that dog owners let their dogs run off leash on Town trails, so why not designate a particular trail as dog friendly? She said that she believes dog owners would clean up after themselves. A dog park in Town would add value to the community and hopefully deter dog owners from using Town trails, away from trails that residents use and, as Scott Charpentier (SC) added, ‘away from groundwater’. AL said she’d spoken with Town Planner Kathy Joubert about this and that they would revisit it after the April 25 Town Meeting.

6:12pm—DPW Report. Dan Nason (DN) said that the pavilion renovation should be complete in approximately 2 weeks. DN also said he had procured a contract with a company to provide townwide mulching services for a year in the amount of \$15,000, which will allow for the DPW staff to focus on maintenance issues. Discussion regarding Memorial Park began. DN said that the stairs have been removed at Memorial Park and he is waiting on pricing for replacement stairs, SC said they should get that information by [the coming] Friday. AL asked if it would be ready for baseball’s opening day on May 7, SC said no. Discussion also included mention of syringes being found on the property.

6:20pm—Tom Lowe, Northborough’s 250th Celebration. Mr. Lowe was present as a member of the Northborough 250th Celebration Committee to formally ask for permission for use of Ellsworth-McAfee Park on August 14 for a day of old-fashioned family activities. Mr. Lowe handed out an event description. The high school gym will be used as a rain location but would change the activities offered. There is no cost to attend. Mr. Lowe asked if ‘there is anything we should or shouldn’t do’. DP asked if fire trucks would be present [in case of emergency], Mr. Lowe said he spoke with Sergeant Galvin who said it wasn’t necessary as police will be present. DP said the Commission sees no issue with the group using the field for this event on that date.

6:37pm—New Business.

- **Opening Day for Baseball.** AL said May 7 is Opening Day for Baseball and the Challenger Baseball program. So far Challenger has 35 participants registered and 40 buddy volunteers.

6:37pm—Old Business.

- **Lighting on Flag at Park.** DP said that he noticed that the American Flag at Ellsworth-McAfee Park has not been lit at night. DN will look into it.

6:42pm—Motion to Adjourn. Sean Durkin (SD) made a motion to adjourn, SM seconded, all in favor.