



Travis Farley
Recreation & Parks
Director

Natick Recreation & Parks

People Driven. Service Focused.

3.13.23
Recreation and Parks
Commission Meeting Minutes

Present: Kelly McPherson, Wayne Sretter, Mike Fair, Barbara Sanchez, Seth Levine, David Ordway, Jessica Ordway, Sandra Dower, Dave Hiller, Saul Beaumont, Travis Farley, Deputy Director of Recreation and Parks and Andrea Verdelli, Recording secretary

Absent:

Meeting called to order: 6:02pm

Minutes: Motion to pass by Ms. Sanchez Seconded by Mr. Levine.
Motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Concerns:

Mr. Richard Cugini, resident of 19 Jefferson Street in Natick, has concerns regarding the new gazebo design not including a roof. He believes it would impair the ability for a band to play with a chance of rain due to electronics being exposed, and advises us to add a roof to the new design.

Directors Report:

Town Meeting Warrants Motion: Ms. Claire Rundell, Conservation Agent of Open Space Planner for the Town of Natick, requests the commission's endorsement at the Spring Town meeting taking place on April 25th regarding by-law Article 20. Ms. Rundell states Article 20 outlines the basic guidelines for a commission to be created to appropriately distribute the 1.1-1.4 million dollars of annual revenue that will be collected for Open Space, Affordable Housing and Historical Society. This commission would include 10 representatives; a single representative from Recreation and Parks Commission, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Housing Authority, Historical Society and the remaining four individuals would be appointed by the Select Board.

Mr. Levine moves to table this endorsement pending review of written plans, seconded by Mr. Hiller.

Adirondack Chairs Common: Athena Pandolf, Natick Cultural District is working on putting two Adirondack chairs on the gazebo for the summer to be painted by artists. Mr. Farley would like to write a memo on the behalf of the commission to the Select Board endorsing the project. Ms. Dower has safety concerns about children climbing chairs and causing damage if they're placed inside the gazebo. Mr. Farley suggests putting chairs outside of the gazebo.



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Connor Heffler Park Update: Land Facilities and Natural Resources installed wind screens on the Connor Heffler Park courts. Our department is working with a fence company to build a privacy section to conceal a port-o-potty.

Court Scheduling Update: Mr. Farley states there are issues with an unauthorized scheduling application regarding the use of courts at the park, as these courts have always been first come first serve. Mr. Edson Camama, resident of 4 Nashoba Circle in Natick, states the three changes he would like to see are Connor Heffler Park; first, he requests the location be taken off of playtime scheduler, second he would like equal opportunity play for all level players and lastly, he would like to see Natick residents have priority. He has concerns regarding usage in the summer if the court is this popular in the winter. Ms. Sally Camama, resident of 4 Nashoba Circle in Natick, states in other towns, like Wellesley, they charge non-residents \$5. Ms. Marjorie Raskin, resident of 8 Sawin Street in Natick, suggests designating each court depending on level of play. Ms. Raskin suggests gathering volunteers to be a park monitor to see if that type of enforcement would reduce the unfair distribution of time on the courts. Mr. Farley will write a letter to Playtime Scheduler on behalf of the Recreation and Parks Commission to request removal of the Town of Natick from the Playtime Scheduler application. Mr. Farley would also like to support the idea of volunteers monitoring the park and suggests reaching out to him if you're interested in doing so. Mr. Szretter suggests putting a sign "preference to Natick residents during specific times" Mr. Ordway suggests creating "friends of Natick Pickleball" to help monitor the courts.

Dug Pond Boat Ramp Update: A representative of LFNR, DPW and Natick Police met at the Boat Launch at Dug Pond to discuss how to work as a team to stop the congregation. They have come to the conclusion there are too many signs, so information on existing signage will be compiled and clearly listed on one sign as well as adding multiple "no parking" signs along both sides of the street.

Town Common Request Structure: Mr. Farley would like to review the structure of common requests, regarding the approval process. Mr. Farley suggests annual returning groups would only need to be approved by the Rec and Park Commission or Select Board, not both. Ms. McPherson suggests applying this to returning groups with no infractions or changes and also believes the Select Board would need to approve the requests. Mr. Farley will do more research.

Spring/Summer Post Card: A postcard was mailed to all Natick residences reminding them of Spring and Summer registration.

Common Requests:

Scoopapalooza: Charles River Rotary Club requests to host their annual Scoopapalooza event on Saturday, June 24th, 2023 from 10:00 am-3:00 pm with a rain date of Sunday, June 25th. Mr. Ordway moves to approve, Ms. Sanchez seconds. Motion passed unanimously.



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Natick 180: The Natick Health Department (Natick 180) requests to place a table and tent on the Natick Common during the Boston Marathon on April 17th, 2023 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

Mr. Ordway moves to approved. Mr. Szretter seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Juneteenth: Natick Center Cultural District requests to host a Juneteenth event on Monday, June 19th, 2023 from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm.

Mr. Ordway moves to approve, Ms. Dower seconds.

Member Announcements:

CRT: Discussion has started to dissolve the committee, Ms. Sanchez states there is pushback until the rail trail fully completes connects to downtown.

NEETEGA: No New Updates

PATH: Still undergoing conversations regarding the name change.

Open Space: No new updates.

Charles River Dam: No new updates

Gazebo Repair: New members being added; Travis Farley, Jon Marshall (Deputy Town Administrator) and Bill Spratt (Director of Facilities).

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Ordway moves to adjourn at 7:15pm. Mr. Ordway seconds.

Next meeting date:

April 10, 2023