

# MINUTES

## Recreation Commission Meeting 11/16/15

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:02PM.

Recreation Commission attendees: Dave Reilly, Bob Phillips, Joyce Cannon, Lynn Connors, Elizabeth Phillips, Sheila Moylan and Ann Delaney.

Recreation staff attendees: Nicole Banks and Taryn Crocker

### Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2015 and October 19, 2015
- Monthly Report – October department report including summer 2015 statistics
- Motion to approve the Consent Agenda moved by Elizabeth Phillips and seconded by Ann Delaney.

Commission Member reports: None.

### Public Comment:

- Mitch Katzman introduced himself to the Commission and expressed an interest in serving on Recreation Commission. There is an associate position open. Mitch has served on the Little League Baseball committee and lived in town for 17-18 years.

### Westwood Day Budget Review:

Taryn Crocker, Business Manager provided a budget summary for Westwood Day 2015. An itemized budget with 2014 comparisons and a full event history budget summary were provided. “Don’t see it changing next year. Increases happened due to loss of main band and cost of stages in place.” Discussion around dates occurred and addressed that planning takes into consideration other town days as well as home game for Westwood football.

### Report of the Director:

- Recreation Brochure Winter – available Nov. 25 (Before Thanksgiving so folks can plan their activities)
- Field / Facilities updates
  - Morrison – lights now offline there are no current field reservations. Will be down for a while until they are rewired.
  - Continued conversation on “No dogs on fields” – review policy for use of fields and facilities, overview of current signs in Town pertaining to dogs/pets and discussion of **consistent** policy for signs. Westwood town policy states, “Dog must be ‘under control’ of owner.” Recommendation that we work with the DPW, schools and Board of Health to review posting consistent signs at athletic fields that communicate the fields policy “no animals are permitted on town or school property except service animals.
  - Field use policy – review policy for use of fields and facilities (all organized groups or for-profit entities wishing to use a town-owned recreational facility or field, must obtain a permit from the Recreation Department. Organized groups include teams, leagues, classes, lessons, clinics etc.). Consider letter notification to groups regarding field use policies. Draft letter was presented at meeting. “In response to Bay State Football using fields for practices without signing up for

fields. Your practices are part of a scheduled league and therefore fall under the policy and need for reserving fields for these practices.” A letter was drafted by Nicole and reviewed by Commission. Dave, “When we confront an issue it is imperative that we remain consistent in our message to everyone.”

- Sheehan tennis court refurbishment – discussion of next steps to prepare for plan proposal for this site. Public input session to solicit ideas for site. Possibly Sheehan PTO co-president might create a survey to poll the interests of the use of the abandoned tennis court area. Need to set aside time to discuss options.
  - Grass over and extend fields
  - Outdoor ice rink
  - Splash pad
  - Back board and it could be used for many sports
  - Nice garden area

Other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours in advance of the meeting:

Thanks for the generous contributions from the following Westwood Youth Sport Groups to fully fund the Deerfield sod overrun: Westwood Youth Soccer - \$9,500 (voted to approve full amount for sod), Westwood Youth Softball - \$2,000 and Westwood Youth Lacrosse Boys - \$500.

Bob Phillips addressed that there were two elements at the School Street Playground that need to be addressed. As he predicted, the hanging chain had rusted out and was pulled out of the ground. Nicole responded with the information that the company that recently fixed the pieces was contacted and repairs and/or replaced what was broken. One element is still “closed” and they are waiting to see if it is under warranty.

Bob Phillips brought attention to the part of the Field/Facility policy stating; “Drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.” What league is drinking at the games and are they under the Recreation Commission jurisdiction? Dave reminded a better way to manage these topics, going forward to maintain order will be to place on the next month’s agenda for discussion.

Next meeting: Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Recreation office.

Adjourn: Motion by Joyce Cannon, seconded by Ann Delaney, to adjourn the Recreation Commission meeting of November 16, 2015 at 8:15PM. Unanimous 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Connors