

May 17, 2010

Members present: Nancy Phillips & Buddy deBettencourt

Others present: Gail Barmakian (BOS/Wastewater/Resident), Jennifer Warden (Vineyard Pedi-cab), John Pasquina (Vineyard Pedi-cabs), Terry McCarthy (Harbor Fest), Karon Wojtkielo (Tennis), John Regan (OB Resident), Nick Briggs (Skate Park)

Special Event Requests

Commissioners reviewed Vineyard Pedi-cab's request to use Ocean Park on July 17, 2010 (rain date July 18th) for Pan MV Challenge Bike Ride to raise money for Dana Faber Cancer Institute (set up 7:00 AM, take down 5:00 PM).

Karen Warden advised that 100% of money from riders goes directly to Dana Faber and they are looking for Local businesses to sponsor them to help cover their overhead costs. They will be using Dana Faber's website for the race. She said that they might have an acoustic guitar player during the post ride BBQ. Commissioners did not want grills on Ocean Park and were concerned about using the microphone. They will contact the Police Department.

Commissioner Phillips said that they should contact the Board of Health if they are going to have food. Also need to drop off a \$100 deposit.

Motion: To approve Vineyard Pedi-cabs request to use Ocean Park on July 17, 2010

By: Commissioner Phillips

Second: Commissioner deBettencourt

Motion passed unanimously 2-0.

Commissioners reviewed Oak Bluffs Associations requests to use Sunset Lake Park to park vendor cars during the day (9 AM to 5 PM) on June 19, 2010 (rain date June 20th).

Terry McCarthy said he has spoken with Roger Willis (Boston Area Roadsters) and Duncan Ross about the Animal Shelter event on the same day and they have worked out the logistics of parking, etc.

Commissioner Phillips said that Greg Orcutt (MV Animal Shelter) did not want the animals near where the vehicles will be going in and out. Terry McCarthy said did not think there will any issues and has made contact with involved parties.

Motion: To approve parking for vendors for the Harbor Fest at Sunset Lake Park

By: Commissioner Phillips

Second: Commissioner deBettencourt

Motion passed unanimously 2-0.

Waban/Alley Park

Commissioner Phillips gave update on status of project; five engineers and two landscape architects/designers working on it. It was found that the pipe was angled the wrong way going from the catch basin at the end Halliday Place to the discharge area plus it had collapse. An 18" pipe and two catch basins were installed plus a pipe from the west basin to the east basin so water would flow from one to the other and into the pipe with only a 6" drop. Four soil test pits were dug and they found a two foot layer of fill (clay) which did not allow the water to filter down. An old pipe was found in front of 12 Nantucket Ave that came from Tuckernuck Ave side; there may have been an old brick catch basin in the soggy area. Both the brick debris and clay have been removed, any soil that was salvageable was kept, truck loads of sand were brought in and everything was sifted to cover over an acre of area. There is one area (80' x 50') that will have nature grasses and flowers in it.

Gail Barmakian said that the residents of Nantucket Ave do not want to see tall grass, flowers or water garden in that area and they have repetitively told the Commission of their objections. They were under the impression that was going to be restored to grass only. She said according to the Conservation Commission that area is in a buffer zone and a permit is required from them.

Commissioner Phillips said she is fully aware of the Conservation Commission requirements; in order to fulfill the conditions of the PARC grant they are obligated to plant native vegetation in the designated area.

Gail Barmakian responded that she knows about grants and sometimes you can go away from the grant conditions and one doesn't have to do exactly what the grant states.

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Commissioner Phillips advised that she has not applied for the Conservation Commission permit as she does not have all the requirements needed to do the natural vegetation. She added that she had spoken with Mr Regan about the designated area and stressed the need to fulfill the grant requirements.

John Regan replied that he did remember the conversation but he has heard from others that they don't have to put something else in there.

Commissioner Phillips responded that it was a Federal and State grant; unless they have spoken with the National Park Service, if you do not do what is you said you would then you risk not get the funding.

Ms Barmakian said that she is asking questions and stating for the record what the history of the project; her understanding of grants is that in any grant it is absolutely impossible for plans to actually go as planned when applying for the grant. She said that inevitability when you dig up something there is always a change in circumstances, so there is the possibility...

Commissioner Phillips replied that then she should take it up with Town Administrator Michael Dutton.

Commissioner deBettencourt asked why the park has to have this certain thing.

Commissioner Phillips answered she applied for the grant trying to get money to fix the huge puddle and marsh land area; it became a much larger problem than anticipated. She spent many hours working on it, two public input sessions, five engineers came up with this solution and she finds it very upsetting that the neighbors are not grateful.

Commissioner deBettencourt replied that the neighbors want to try to keep it the way it was and just fix the puddle.

Ms Barmakian said that the neighbors are not ungrateful, they are grateful and they were thrilled when it was restored to what it was after years of neglect and inattention. She is not blaming Commissioner Phillips for anything but wanted to make it clear as the lines of communication have not been clear for the past two year about it.

Commissioner Phillips said that the lines of communication have been very clear and she stated clearly that is the way they got the funding; it was an 80 x 50 feet of natural vegetation.

Mr Regan wanted to know whose idea was it to put any kind of vegetation in the park; pampas grass, wildflowers, etc. He wanted to know if was the State who said when she went for the grant, that this is what she had to do in order to get money.

Commissioner Phillips replied yes, they had a description of what projects they were favoring and that was one of them.

Commissioner deBettencourt asked if it was in black and white that it has to be done.

Ms Barmakian said no.

Commissioner Phillips answered that they would be running the risk of losing all the money and having the Town pay for it; then they could take the responsibility. She said that she could not believe she was having trouble with people complaining about beautifying a park that was a marsh.

Ms Barmakian responded that it wasn't a marsh, it was a park that had been neglected for past three-four years and she knew the history better than Commission Phillips and she did not appreciate it being minimized. She said they have concerns about a water garden, dampness in the park and its use.

Commissioner Phillips stated that there is not going to be anything that will obstruct views and felt Ms Barmakian was very mistrustful.

Ms Barmakian replied that from the beginning all the neighbors were opposed to it and Commission Phillips went ahead without anybody knowing.

Mr Regan said he remembered attending a meeting at COA, it was packed, there were four-five residents and the consensus was overwhelmingly no flowers. He stated that he also attended the meeting in the park with the Highway Superintendent and others including the engineer and he thought that everyone on the street will see a tremendous

improvement and they are very thankful, all they are saying is that they don't see any need of having wildflowers and tall grasses. He wanted to know what Commissioner Phillips thought should go there.

Commissioner Phillips answered whatever is recommended by the landscape architecture to fulfill the grant requirements.

Mr Regan would like the landscape designer to come to a meeting and tell the residents of Nantucket Avenue what benefit there is going to be as far as the nature is concerned of the area.

Commissioner Phillips said that was not his call as it is the grant people deciding and the design is with the landscape architect and the neighbors. She repeated that there was no funding without it, she felt the discussion wasn't going anywhere and she had already explained it and any plans for the little 80 x 50 foot area will be presented to the neighbors.

Ms Barmakian stated it was not little to the neighbors of that side of the park and she felt that Commission Phillips did not recognize that.

Commissioner deBettencourt said that he still didn't understand why there had to be plants in the middle of the park.

Commissioner Phillips replied that she had told him all along that was how the grant was obtained.

Mr Regan said that there has been a water issue on Nantucket Avenue for more than 60 years, they don't want anything there. He continued that they want it as just the way it is right now and he is hopeful that is going to be the solution. He added that she and everyone else involved in the project deserves a lot of credit but felt what she wanted was not going to add anything.

Commission Phillips thanked him for his input.

Skate Park

Nick Briggs informed Commissioners that last summer there was free clinics for children and this summer they are hopeful to do a more structured camp for kids but there were insurance issues.

Commissioner Phillips said it was a great idea but she had been unaware that the Park Commission had any connection with the Skate Park.

Commissioner deBettencourt stated that the Park Commission sponsored the whole thing.

Commissioner Phillips said she would like to speak with the Town Administrator about the liability, and if everything is okay then she is all for a skate camp.

The day camp would run 9 am to 1 or 2 pm, Monday thru Friday; it would specifically be for beginners.

Commissioner Phillips said she was concerned about maintenance and wanted to know if there someone who could attest to the safety of it.

Mr Briggs said that after the risk assessment, the Skate Park implemented a monthly maintenance check list which could be more or less depending on use. He added that there is a maintenance budget and they are working on the issues that were brought up after the assessment, they will look into whether there exists an entity that checks skate park safety.

Commissioners would need maintenance plan, some sort of authority that says it is safe area, and what their program is going to include but generally thought it was a good idea.

Commissioner deBettencourt didn't think they should have to pay the Town anything; they can just put it back into the park.

Mr Briggs said that any increase in trash due to camp would be taken care of by Skate Park.

Niantic Park

Commissioner Phillips commended Karon Wojtkielo on getting grants from USTA.

Karon Wojtkielo explained that money is designated for marketing, leagues, beautification and equipment. She advised that new windscreens should arrive by the end of May. She plans to get new cranks as well as notice boards. She presented rules and policy, registration forms and fee schedule to be approved by Commission. She plans to advertise the camps and combo leagues in MV Times on May 27, June 25 and July 2. She has also planned a kick off “get to know your opponent” party as well as a ending tournament party; the Oyster Bar has agreed to host party. People will be able to find out about leagues via USTA website. She has someone painting and donating signs for the building. She needs to have water access.

Commissioner Phillips said she spoke with Tom Degnan, Oak Bluffs Water District, and was told that a temporary water connection will be set up at park. She bought hoses, connections and sprinklers. She also got the Water District to put in a temporary connection at Waban/Alley Park.

Ms Wojtkielo advised that there is a women’s league using the courts and she felt that they should be charged a guest fee as only one person has a key. She suggested that the tennis season should start on May 1st with official opening in June. She also plans to have advertisement for camps, etc in Brazilian Portuguese.

Commissioner Phillips said she hopes to meet with Town Administrator on Wednesday to review advertisements, policy, before posting on Town’s website.

There was a discussion of what type plants to put around park.

Beach signs - MA DPH

Commissioner Phillips stated that there is new regulations from Massachusetts Department of Public Health that beaches require signage at every access point; dates of operation, how often water is tested and where results are available. She said Board of Health Agent Shirley Fauteaux tests weekly and puts results on line, should the results be over a certain threshold then the beach must be closed. She will talk with Health Agent about fee and telephone number.

Ocean Park & Bandstand

Commissioner Phillips advised that there still inside work and she would contact Dunkls. Also a dehumidifier is still needed.

DISCLAIMER: These minutes are based on a tape recording and as such have a margin of error.

Next meeting June 7, 2010