

June 7, 2010

Members present: Nancy Phillips, Richard Combra, JR & Buddy deBettencourt

Others present: Gail Barmakian (BOS/Wastewater/Resident), George Sourati (Engineer), Karon Wojtkielo (Tennis), John Regan (OB Resident), James Madison (MBLA), Barbara Hoyle (OB Resident), Ron Mechur (OB Resident), Steve Auerbach (OB Resident)

Minutes approved: May 3 & 17, 2010

Special Event Requests

- Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association's request to use Waban/Alley Park on August 14, 2010 for summer mixer. James Madison explained the event would include a tent to provide refreshments during the day and dinner in the evening. Commissioner Combra advised that they should contact Police Department & Board of Health. He will also meet with the tent company.

Motion: To approve MBLA's request to use Waban/Alley Park on August 14, 2010

By: Commissioner Combra Second: Commissioner Phillips

Commissioner deBettencourt voted no.

Motion passed 2-1.

- Hyndman wedding in Ocean Park Bandstand on July 1, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Commissioner Phillips was concerned about hatch safety issue. Commissioner Combra said he would speak with the Dunkls about it and would make sure someone was present.

Motion: To approve Paul Hyndman's request to use bandstand on July 1, 2010

By: Commissioner Combra Second: Commissioner Phillips

Commissioner deBettencourt voted no.

Motion passed 2-1.

- **Minor adjustments to locations on Lakeside Park for Animal Shelter, Boston Roadsters and vendor parking for Harbor Fest.**

Barbara Hoyle expressed concerns about parking during garden party along Greenleaf Avenue; she said legally not supposed to use Lakeside Park for commercial use. She said that Town Counsel has written a document about use of Lakeside Park and the Town Administrator should have it.

Public Input Sessions

1. **Waban/Alley Park grass and natural vegetation preliminary plan (with native vegetation no more than 3.5 feet high and no water features) for storm water mitigation.**

George Sourati gave overview of project; dug up area and found it had been filled before so solution was to replace with sand mixture to provide better drainage. Survey map was presented; if area was left flat then houses along Nantucket Avenue potentially get flooded. Natural vegetation was suggested in order to mitigate mosquito breeding areas. Commissioner Phillips stated the natural vegetation was proposed at public hearing on July 7, 2009 and presented pictures of possible plants.

John Regan stated that he was at the July public hearing and he made it very clear that he was opposed to planting of flowers and vegetation because he didn't think it would do anything to control standing water.

Commissioner Phillips said that there is no engineer who said that it will definitely work but felt that this was the best solution.

Gail Barmakian stated that she is there as an abutter; her mother lives on Nantucket Avenue and she grew up there during the summers. She said it was unreasonable that there was no posting of agenda until the day of session so she would like another meeting to give other abutters the opportunity to speak. She also said more people voted against it last July and their votes were not counted. She felt the new drainage system is working and no further mitigation is required.

Commissioner Phillips responded that the Town has signed a contract with National Park Service and the project has been delayed already. She hopes that neighbors understand that the NPS was not going to fund putting grass in that area.

Ms Barmakian felt that with any grant there is room for modification; she read the contract, there is room for amendments and Commissioner Phillips should discuss it with the Town Administrator. She said that it is a change from what people grew up with, still might attract ducks and mosquitoes and she wanted another input for abutters to comment on the project.

Commissioner Phillips replied that she did visit to every house over the weekend to get people to come; she spoke with at least three households that were not opposed to the project.

Ron Mechur commented that he didn't like spending public money when it is not necessarily needed so perhaps it could be amended but historically there were gardens in Waban/Alley Park not open landscape. He liked that it was low maintenance and environmentally sensible.

Various abutters & neighbors expressed support of the project given the amount space (50'x80') it would occupy as well the possibility of it assisting with the remaining storm water mitigation.

Commissioner Combra said that work was not finished in the area where the vegetation is proposed and he was pretty confident that a stipulation of the grant was that a "rain garden" be included; it was necessary in order to solve and pay for the problem of storm water flooding.

Commissioner deBettencourt said he was not familiar with the grant and what had to be done.

Ms Barmakian wanted to know if they would contemplate making it a smaller area and if people don't like it or it doesn't work what would be the process.

Commissioner Phillips replied that it will probably be a smaller area and there would have to be another public input session would occur before removing of vegetation occurs as it is a public park. She said that there will be a public hearing in front of the Conservation Commission on the project in two weeks' time.

2. Proposed Park & Beach Rules and Regulations

Commissioner deBettencourt said that there always use to be rules & regulations posted.

Commissioner Phillips read proposed rules & regulations into the record. She felt that the rules should be posted.

Discussion about no lifeguards on Town beaches, training & requirements of lifeguards and cost. Commissioners agreed that there should be lifeguards but voters didn't want to approve the money requested at the ballot box.

Discussion of when dogs are allowed on various beaches. Need signs at every entrance to beach and someone to enforce the regulation.

People wanted to see the language of the rules to be simplified. Some felt that certain people need to have rules posted.

Discussion on whether or not the Town is liable if posted "swim at own risk" and someone drowns.

Public was informed that a permit is required from the Conservation Commission in order to have beach raked of rocks and/or seaweed. Park Commission had been told after it was done the previous year not to ask again. ConCom concerned that removal of rocks may cause further erosion of beach. Public advised to contact ConCom and Board of Selectmen so they can direct the Highway Department to do the work.

Aquatics program

Holly Lawyer presented information regarding swimming program; she will advertise for 30 minute morning classes, tax payers would receive a discount and there will be expenses this year would be for equipment (tubes, kick boards, etc.)

Commissioner Combra had concerns about liability issues and wanted to make sure the Town Administrator was aware of the possibility; she would be a private contractor hired by the Town just like she has done in Tisbury.

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Motion: To approve hiring Holly Lawyer as a swim instructor with a formal contract.
By: Commissioner Combra Second: Commissioner Phillips
Motion passed 3-0.

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

Next meeting June 21, 2010