

**July 11, 2011**

**Members present: Richard Combra Jr & Amy Billings**

**Others present: Gail Barmakian (BOS/Wastewater/OB Resident), Ron Mechur (OB Resident), Barbara Hoyle (OB Resident), John Regan (OB Resident), Kerry Scott (OB Resident), Ann Margetson (OB Resident)**

**Minutes from June 20, 2011 approved.**

**Special event permit applications**

The following events were approved:

- Winthrop Ave neighborhood kid's day – Winthrop Park – July 30, 2011
- Kahoots Island Tour free concert – Waban/Alley Park – August 6, 2011
- Minnick wedding – East Chop Lighthouse – August 16, 2011
- MBLA clambake – Waban/Alley Park – August 20, 2011

**Waban/Alley Park fence**

Ron Mechur asked about a handicap space along Sea View Avenue at the Inkwell. He was advised that that would need to be reviewed by the Parking & Traffic Committee and approved the Board of Selectmen.

He also said that wooden walkway access to beach is very dangerous and concerned about liability to town.

He said most people along Tuckernuck Avenue have become accustomed to the fence. He researched fence options and it would cost around \$12,000 but he is concerned with safety of current fence.

Commissioner Combra said that they can replace the concrete posts and broken rails. He said that during the winter months, the Commission would look at all the parks and create a list of projects that they would to see done.

**COA building water usage**

COA Director Wey was concerned about the water usage from their water cooler by the basketball camp participants as well as the bathroom.

Commission Combra replied that the basketball area is in need of renovations and he would like to see bathrooms and water access as part of those plans. He said finding the funding is the real issue but he will speak with Mike Joyce about it.

**Updates**

Commission Billings asked about trash in the basketball courts and requested that participants use the barrels provided and perhaps get an additional one.

**Public Input**

**Sunset Lake/Lakeside Park**

Barbara Hoyle spoke about the new group called Friends of Sunset Lake Park and provided the Commission with the corporation paperwork as well as the legal deed for the use of Sunset Park. She had been assured last fall by the Board of Selectmen that there would only be parking for antique cars during the Harbor Festival and Summer Solstice. She said that there is no fence along Greenleaf Avenue and vehicles ignore the no parking signs. She said that this year vehicles started parking on Thursday night.

Commissioner Billings stated that the Commissioners agreed that next year it would only be the antique vehicles in Sunset Lake Park and that they had been under the impression by OBA's special event permit application it would only be vendor vehicles for a limited time on Saturday.

Ms Hoyle did not think that parking for a fee should be allowed in park areas or used when the event is for profit. She restated that due to no fence along Greenleaf Avenue so vehicles come in that way. She said that there are state laws regarding use of parks. She wants to see offsite parking with VTA buses used.

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Commission Combra replied that they will develop a policy that clearly spells out when parking is allowed in either Waban/Alley and/or Sunset Lake parks. He added that the Board of Selectmen approved both the Harbor Festival and the Summer Solstice events.

Commissioner Billings affirmed that they would work on the parking part of Ms Hoyle's concerns.

Further discussion on allowing vehicles in park areas as it sets precedent to always allow parking. Commissioners will talk with Oak Bluffs Association about issue before next year's Harbor Festival, etc.

**Waban/Alley Park rain garden**

Gail Barmakian had concerns about the rain garden area being tended to by volunteers; she said it was not meant to be watered or weeded. She stated that the plants were not supposed to be over three feet tall and added that the neighbors are willing to volunteer to restore it to grass. She also said that the sign and what is there differs.

Nantucket Avenue residents expressed their desire to see the rain garden removed and grass replanted.

Commission Combra suggested that the neighbors should get a letter stating that they want the area restored to grass and if the Conservation Commission approves the removal of the plants back to grass, then they would be willing to act accordingly as he thinks that it should be what the neighborhood wants.

**Dog Parade**

Discussion about annual dog parade and Commissioners felt that a permit was not required unless someone was selling items.

**Noise**

Ann Margetson asked that the music level be turned down at next year's basketball tournament.

**Niantic Park CPA**

Commissioner Combra advised that the drainage project is being reviewed again.

Meeting adjourned.

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

**Next meeting July 25, 2011 at 5:00 PM**