



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Parks and Recreation Minutes 01/10/2006**

### **TOWN OF ARLINGTON**

#### **PARK COMMISSIONERS**

Jonathan Jalbert, Superintendent of Recreation  
Heather Hogle, Recreation Coordinator Tom Caccavaro  
Donna Sullivan, Recreation Supervisor  
Billy Gore, Recreation Supervisor

Joseph Carabello

Nancy Campbell  
Leslie Mayer

Donald Vitters

#### **Recreation Division**

*422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474*  
*Telephone (781) 316-3880 Fax (781) 641-5495*

#### **Park and Recreation Commission Minutes**

Tuesday, January 10, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED- Meeting Minutes

Present: Mr. Joseph Carabello, Ms. Nancy Campbell, Ms. Leslie Mayer, Mr. Don Vitters

Staff present: none

Guests present: Jeanne Leary & Josie Burton (Summer St. Neighborhood Association); Oakes Plimpton (Coolidge Rd. resident); Paul Olson (Finance Committee)

Recording Secretary: Leslie Mayer

#### 1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Carabello welcomed commissioners and guests to the January 10th meeting. Minutes of the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and discussed with revisions offered.

MOTION: (Made by Ms. Mayer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION TABLES APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2005 MEETING MINUTES.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (4-0) IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION

#### 2. Annual Report

Mr. Carabello distributed a draft of the Park & Recreation Commission report to the Town's 2005 Annual Report. The report details the work of the commission, during the current fiscal year related to capital improvement projects and policy development, and plans for future projects. The report was reviewed and edited. Ms. Mayer agreed to write and send a paragraph to Mr. Carabello highlighting the commission's participation on other Town committees focused on field, open space and recreation issues.

#### 3. Capital Project Updates

Capital projects were discussed as part of the Annual Report Review. The status of the RFP for landscape design services for the Menotomy Rocks Park and Bishop projects is unknown. Mr. Vitters confirmed that he received the Friends of Menotomy recommendations (Copley Woolf of Boston and Paula Cortes of Cambridge) to be contacted in addition to the 3 landscape architects previously identified.

#### 4. Public Participation

##### Summer St. Neighborhood Association Discussion

Ms. Leary addressed the Commission about several issues. The status of dog off-leash areas for the Town is unknown and not currently under discussion by the Commission. Ms. Leary distributed copies of an article that describes the creation of a new business in Belmont that will create indoor and outdoor exercise areas for off-leash dogs. Ms. Leary inquired about the status of the installation of lights on Buck Field and was told that this is an Arlington Little League project being completed under the authority of the Town Manager. Ms. Leary will contact the Manager's Office with her inquiry. The other concern related to Veteran's Memorial Rink activity. Questions about hours of operation were raised, as Ms. Leary noted that late night and very early morning activity have been observed. It was suggested that these concerns should be called to the attention of the Supt. of Recreation. It was the sense of the Commission that the rink was not in operation before 6am or after mid-night, but that the schedule of rink use is posted on the Town website and can be accessed by the neighbors if there is a question. The parking and general disruption to the neighborhood around high school hockey games continues to be a concern. It was noted that after a recent Saturday evening game groups of youth were wandering through the neighborhood screaming and being disruptive. The neighbors want to know if police details are required or can be added to deal with these incidents. It was recommended that Ms. Leary contact the athletic directors of Arlington Catholic and Arlington High School to inform them of the problems and enlist their help in coming up with solutions.

##### Park Curfew Warrant Article

Mr. Plimpton explained his warrant article to amend the current park curfew by-law. The essence of his proposal is to extend the curfew from 9pm to 10pm Sun.-Thurs. and 11pm Fri.-Sat. for groups and exempt a person or couple walking. He presented the proposal to the Board of Selectmen, who referred the matter to the Park & Recreation Commission, but who also indicated support for retaining the 9pm curfew. The Commission, while understanding Mr. Plimpton's desire to increase night access for quiet, respectful enjoyment of our parks, supports the current 9pm curfew. Ms. Mayer raised an issue related to the signage at Robbins Farm. The sign mounted on the granite entrance post on Eastern Ave. has not yet been removed and one of the "Park Closing" signs at the entrance to the park at Hawthorne Ave. & Puritan St. is mounted on a tree. The Commissioners agreed that this sign should also be removed and that DPW should be requested not to mount signage in this way.

##### Field Maintenance Committee Warrant Article

Mr. Olson reviewed the warrant article being drafted by Mr. Maher, Ms. Kramer and himself in support of the work of the Field Maintenance Committee. The Committee, which Ms. Campbell represented the Commission on, has agreed to put forward an article which would set a \$6 per head per season youth sports fee that would go into a fund to be used for playing field maintenance. Mr. Olson raised the need for the Town to work on the process for signage and enforcement of by-laws. Mr. Carabello distributed a draft of the partial rules and regulations for facilities, which was discussed. It was decided that the Field Use Sub-Committee would draft sign language to be used at playing fields, which would be reviewed by Mr. Maher then brought to the Commission for review and approval. The Commission will also be discussing the requirements for signage at parks, playgrounds and facilities with waterbodies, as they have slightly different needs.

#### 5. Committee Updates

Field Policy Committee – Mr. Carabello appointed Ms. Campbell to the position of chairperson of the Field Policy Committee

Sports Center Improvement Committee – no report

Open Space Committee – no report

Friends Groups – no reports

#### 6. Recreation and Rink Update

No reports

7. Other

Correspondence Received: Mary Sprague (e-mail re: Stratton Playground) – The Commission discussed the situation of Stratton and Thompson School rebuild projects being on-hold. It was decided that a renovation of the Stratton School (Pheasant Ave.) playground would be put into the Commission’s Capital Plan for FY’08. Mr. Vitters will obtain the latest version of the Capital Plan from Mr. Jalbert and make this addition. Ms. Mayer will respond to Ms. Sprague’s correspondence.

A question was raised about whether the lease that the Town signed with the State relative to the Veteran’s Memorial Rink is a public document and if so, where it is located. Mr. Carabello indicated that the document is a public document and he believes a copy exists at the Recreation Office for interested members of the public.

**Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:30 pm**