



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Parks and Recreation Minutes 09/12/2000**

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:30 PM in the Whittemore Robbins House. Commission members in attendance included Joe Carabello, Bernice Jones, Don Vitters and Mary Tegan. Also present was Superintendent of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Public in attendance included: Rachel Leindle, Jennifer Opp, Judy Petrie, Marilyn Beptra, Enid Caldwell, Estelle Cross, Betsy Leonard Wright, Doris Lowell, Jennifer Bonis, Gail Leonard Wright, John Gearin, Joe Hart and Rollie Chaput.

### Field and Recreational Facility Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Vitters reviewed the capital improvement funding process and the fiscal constraints involved with the process. Mr. Vitters explained that there is tremendous competition for funding amongst the various town departments. Mr. Vitters explained that traditionally the Commission has requested and has been granted between \$150,000 - \$300,000 annually. Mr. Vitters explained that there are two major funding sources, revenue from taxes and CDBG funds. Mr. Vitters stated that CDBG funds could only be used in designated areas with the exception of using the funds for handicap accessibility. Mr. Vitters did review a potential new source of funding (Community Preservation Act), that will allow communities to impose a 3% real estate tax to raise funds for historic preservation, parks and playgrounds and affordable housing. The Commission reviewed some of the upcoming larger projects including: Thorndike Field, Robbins Farm and Spy Pond Shore. Mr. Vitters stated that the Commission traditionally tried to balance larger projects with two smaller projects in a one-year period. The Commission reviewed the funding steps beginning with the Commission's request and ending with April's Town Meeting.

Ms. Jones stated that the Commission should aggressively pursue funding from the Community Preservation Act. Ms. Jones and Mr. Connelly explained the importance of the neighbors to keep the Commission and Recreation abreast of the condition of the individual parks and playgrounds. Ms. Petrie shared her concerns with the conditions of the Cutter School Playground. Mr. Connelly addressed these concerns and his hope that equipment previously at the Brackett School could be installed at Cutter Playground. Ms. Petrie stated the need for a Friends of Cutter Playground Group. Mr. Chaput discussed the success of the Friends of Robbins Farm and volunteered his services to help the neighbors of Cutter School organize themselves. Ms. Wright also shared the success of the Friends of Spy Pond Shore. Ms. Petrie suggested that the town go after corporate funding for the parks and playgrounds. The Commission discussed this suggestion with the group. Mr. Gearin suggested an evaluation and statement be made regarding condition of the various parks and playgrounds.

Mr. Carabello explained that the Commission did hire a professional consultant to do a study three years ago and it was results of that study that helped the Commissioners set their 10-year capital improvement plan. The Commission and the group continued to discuss playground safety standards and current maintenance schedules.

Mr. Carabello explained the need for more active and passive recreation land. Mr. Carabello stated the frustration of the Commission and Arlington residents when a field is renovated and then is destroyed the next season due to overuse. Ms. Tegan suggested an awareness campaign through the advocate, where a different recreational area was highlighted weekly. Ms. Tegan suggested that details regarding the current conditions and use of a facility be explained to residents to increase their knowledge of the park shortage and maintenance situation.

Mr. Connelly and Mr. Vitters reviewed current and future Commission projects. Mr. Vitters asked Mr. Connelly to talk to Mr. Bento about the Hills Pond project. Mr. Vitters believed that this expense is routine maintenance and should come out of the Department of Public Works maintenance budget. The Commission discussed and revised the capital improvement plan. With input from Joe Hart, \$25,000 for Buck Field was removed from the plan. The Commissioners also added \$300,000 for Robbins Farm in FY 2003 and FY 2004. The Commissioners kept the remainder of the plan as written.

### Park Commission Capital Improvement Requests

Field	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06
Bishop	\$80,000				
Buzzell		\$200,000			
Cutter			\$75,000		
Crosby	<b>\$100,000</b>				
CDBG					
Florence			\$25,000		
Hibbert	\$100,000				
Hurd	\$175,000				
Locke		\$150,000			
Menotomy			\$200,000		
Poets		\$100,000			
Robbins Farm	\$300,000		\$300,000	\$300,000	
Spy Pond Shore	\$500,000		\$582,600		
Summer					
Street	\$105,000				
		\$100,000			
Turkey Hill			\$75,000		
Waldo	\$100,000				
Wellington			\$50,000		
Feasibility					
Study	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Field					
Maintenance	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total Capital	\$1,055,000	\$1,297,600	\$910,000	\$335,000	\$210,000
Fund Request					

The Commissioners reviewed the requests of the capital improvement requests of the Arlington Sport Center:

Improvement	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05
Building Expansion Feasibility Study			\$15,000	
Addition				
of 2 Locker Rooms		\$30,000		
Beam Cleaning and Ceiling Painting			\$45,000	
Upgrade Bleachers		\$20,000		
Parking Study and Improvements				\$20,000
Total Request	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$20,000	\$20,000

Mr. Vitters asked that any fencing project from this point forward use black vinyl fencing. The Commission agreed and Ms. Jones asked that this information be highlighted in the minutes.

Mr. Carabello motioned to accept the capital improvement plan as amended for the outdoor recreational facilities and sports center. Motion was seconded by Ms. Jones and approved 4-0.

#### Arlington Baseball Association Signs at Buck and Scannell Field

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request of the Commissioner at their last meeting to have Arlington Little League place their proposal for signage in writing. Mr. Connelly stated that upon receipt of their written request, he was instructed to solicit input from Town Counsel. Mr. Connelly reviewed the opinion of Town Counsel stating that Mr. Maher believes that the signage would be in violation of the general by-law and possibly the zoning by-law. However Mr. Maher indicated that the final word on the zoning by-law would have to come from the zoning enforcement officer. Mr. Maher suggested that the Town Manager become involved and that this issue go to Town Meeting in article form. The Commission gave Mr. Hart the necessary information to begin the warrant article process.

Mr. Vitters asked Mr. Hart if his organization was given permission to place a storage box at Hurd Field. Mr. Hart gave some background of his conversations with Debbie Hayes, but admitted that approval was not received. Mr. Vitters reviewed his displeasure and pattern of behavior of Arlington Little League. Mr. Hart stated his frustration with the speed of the process and the lack of maintenance on the fields.

#### Rink Improvement Subcommittee

Mr. Connelly reviewed the sole application for the Commission's representative to the Rink Improvement Committee. Mr. Connelly indicated that he believed Arthur Ales to be a quality candidate for the position. Mr. Carabello stated his desire to have the Commission's representative report to the Commission after each meeting. The Commission suggested that this made a stipulation of the position.

Mr. Carabello motioned to appoint Mr. Ales to the Rink Improvement Committee for a three-year term with the understanding that he shall report to the Commission during their monthly meeting after a Rink Improvement Committee meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

Recreation Report

Mr. Connelly reviewed the estimated net loss of \$16,000 at the reservoir due to inclement weather conditions. The Commission discussed the issue of the geese. Mr. Carabello stated that he heard that sprinklers going off at night would keep the geese off the shoreline. The Commission agreed that this concept would be worth trying next season.

Ms. Tegan discussed her desire to investigate increased programming for the 13-15 year old youth population.

Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Tegan, and approved 4-0.

The Commission adjourned at 11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Joseph J. Connelly,  
Superintendent of Recreation