

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 15, 2017**

Members Present: Cynthia DeAngelis, Kerrie Fallon, Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire,  
Karen Mathiasen, Michael Rademacher

Members Absent: Beverley Bevilacqua, Susan Tenant, Liza Molina

Others Present: Donald Vitters, Park and Recreation Commission  
Jon Marshall, Director of Recreation  
Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

**Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2017:**

The meeting minutes of January 18, 2017 were tabled until the March 2017 Meeting.

**Discussion with Jon Marshall and Donald Vitters about accessibility upgrades to Arlington Parks.**

Donald Vitters stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission consist of five appointed members and two non-voting associate members.

Jon said that his purpose in attending the Commission on Disability meeting is that being fairly new in his position he is attempting to introduce himself to Boards and Committee's within the Town. Jon said he also wanted to attend the Disability Commission Meeting in order to share information regarding accessibility upgrades to local parks.

Jon said that there have been a few public meetings regarding planned improvements to Robbins Farm Park. Jon said that using Community Preservation Funds accessibility improvements will be made to the athletic field, community gardens, and monument area of Robbins Farm Park. The improvements will include accessible pathways some constructed with asphalt. One pathway will connect to the Parks overlook area where benches will sit atop a concrete slab. The largest cost for improvements at Robbins Farm Park will be for under drains in the athletic field. Jon said that the width of some paths will be increased from six feet to nine feet with grading of the soil to meet accessibility standards. Accessible paths to the garden area will not be paved but will be graded. The garden beds will be raised. Work on the basketball court which will cost approximately \$100,000 may need to be partially delayed dependent upon available funding. The Total cost of the project at Robbins Farm Park has been budgeted at approximately \$638,000. Jon said that the design work on this Park is about 75% completed and should go out to bid in April 2017. The work may take two years to complete. Kerrie Fallon raised concerns shared by other members of the Disability Commission about the need to increase handicapped parking at Robbins Farm Park. Michael Rademacher recommended that two handicapped curb cut ramps be installed next to the Park with one at the top of the hill and

one at the bottom of the hill. Michael said that it is usually unorthodox to install a curb cut ramp at a location that is not a street corner.

Jon talked about future accessibility improvements to Lussiano Field and Florence Field. Jon said that this year's goal is to pave a path at Florence Field which will require extensive grading of the soil. Do to erosion sections of this field will need to be built up. Originally \$65,000 to \$75,000 was planned to be expended for improvements at Florence Field but with the extra grading the approximate cost has risen to about \$110,000. Jon said that to properly fund the project at Florence Field work at Lussiano Field will need to be placed on hold for at least one year. Jon said that a challenge at Florence Field is that most of the work needs to be completed during the summer months in that the Dallin School uses the park during the school year.

Jon talked about the many accessibility improvements that followed recommendations of the Institute Human Center Design that have been made at Magnolia Park. Jon said that some of the improvements include the addition of accessible playground equipment, picnic benches that are accessible and raised planters.

Donald Vitters suggested that once or twice a year that the Park and Recreation Commission update the Disability Commission on proposed accessibility improvements in Town Parks. Maureen St. Hilaire said that she would include this on the Commission's Task List. Jon said that February was a good month to set aside to meet with the Disability Commission because it is a slower time of year for the Recreation Department.

**Running Task List:**

The Commission members agreed to hold their retreat on a Wednesday afternoon between 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. during the months of either May or June. Jack Jones said that he would talk to Patsy Kraemer about the availability of the Whitmore Robbins House. Susan James requested that a date be set for the Commission to sponsor and attend a True Story Theatre event. Michael Rademacher updated the Commission on accessibility improvements that are planned this year for the Senior Center Building.

**Adjournment:**

Cynthia DeAngelis moved adjournment seconded by Susan James. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.