

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



Recreation Department

Recreation Department
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Shirley Canniff
Leslie Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Phil Lasker
Scott Walker
Josh Fenollosa - Associate
Sarah Carrier- Associate

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
7:00 PM – Arlington Community Center (2nd Floor)

AGENDA

- 1) Public Art Mural Location Discussion
- 2) Permitting of alcohol events on property under Park Commission jurisdiction
- 3) Project Updates: Robbins Farm Playground, Hills Hill MTB, Parallel Playground/Park, Menotomy Rocks Park Play/Picnic Area, 2025 CPA & Capital Requests, Ed Burns Arena Parking Study
- 4) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
 - a) Mini Pitch Court Discussion – Max McKersie
- 5) Correspondence Received: Ericka Gray (McClennen Dogs), Mary Greenwald (Menotomy Dogs)
- 6) Minute Approval – 10/24/2023, 11/14/2023, 11/28/2023
- 7) 2024 Proposed Meeting Schedule
- 8) New Business
 - a) Davey Resource Proposal for Crusher Lot –Friends of Crusher Future CDBG Request
- 9) Public Comment

11/27/23, 2:16 PM

Re: McClennen Park Problem Off-Leash - Joe Connelly - Outlook

Re: McClennen Park Problem Off-Leash

Mary Greenwald <megreenwald@verizon.net>

Mon 11/27/2023 2:14 PM

To:Richard Flynn <rfflynn@town.arlington.ma.us>;Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>;Courtney Wilson <cwilson@town.arlington.ma.us>;Jim Feeney <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us>;Julie Flaherty <jflaherty@town.arlington.ma.us>;ebgray@gmail.com <ebgray@gmail.com>
Cc:sean.garballey@mahouse.gov <sean.garballey@mahouse.gov>;strutnpuppy@gmail.com <strutnpuppy@gmail.com>;nhoe@comcast.net <nhoe@comcast.net>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Captain Flynn,

By coincidence, I was about to contact you and ACO Wilson when Ericka's email arrived. I am seeing the exact same thing at Menotomy Rocks Park: off-leash violations are rampant during weekday afternoons (3:00-dusk) and throughout the weekend. No doubt dog owners are aware that the ACO is not on duty at these times and schedule their visits accordingly. Additionally, many dog owners are part of a group text; if one sees ACO Wilson in the park, an alert goes out and everyone else immediately leashes up their dog.

This flagrant disregard for the leash law is dangerous. I speak from personal experience: yesterday afternoon, an off-leash dog at MRP ran up to me and my balance service dog, inserted itself between us, and knocked me down. I wish this were a rare occurrence, but it's happened before and, I'm afraid, will happen again if more isn't done to address this problem.

Sincerely,

Mary Greenwald

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McClennen Park Problem Off-Leash

ebgray@gmail.com <ebgray@gmail.com>

Mon 11/27/2023 8:41 AM

To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>; Courtney Wilson <cwilson@town.arlington.ma.us>; Richard Flynn <rflynn@town.arlington.ma.us>; Jim Feeney <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: sean.garballey@mahouse.gov <sean.garballey@mahouse.gov>; Mary Greenwald <megreenwald@verizon.net>; strutnpuppy@gmail.com <strutnpuppy@gmail.com>; nhoe@comcast.net <nhoe@comcast.net>

📎 5 attachments (895 KB)

IMG_0446.jpg; IMG_0448.PNG; IMG_0449.jpg; IMG_0450.jpg; IMG_0451.jpg;

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good morning all,

I hope that your Thanksgiving was relaxing and your reentry into the post holiday week will be smooth.

I wanted to bring the ongoing issue with use of McClennen Park for off-leash activity by large groups of dogs on the fields and in the ballpark by Active Waggers, a Winchester based dog walking/boarding company owned by Stacia Biel. The company is based out of Ms. Biel's house at 176 Dothan Street. I brought this to Joe's attention via email on July 29, 2022 and Joe noted that he would alert Captain Flynn to the problem. I never heard back from anyone as to what, if anything, was done.

Telling Stacia and her people that off-leash activity was prohibited when I and others who I know encountered them outside of off-leash hours has not been effective in stopping the problem. They use McClennen at various times of the day for many dogs (I have seen 6-10 at a time,) usually with only one handler. I have posted screenshots of some of their Facebook posts, including as recently as Thanksgiving Day, which notes that they were there in the afternoon. In all of the screenshots, it is clear that it is McClennen Park and in most, that they are in the ballpark.

In general, off-leash dogs remain the norm at McClennen Park, especially after school and on weekends. It remains unfortunate that I am unable to use the beautiful park that my house abuts due to my disability and fear of being injured by out of control off-leash dogs as I have been in the past.

Given the many meetings, emails, discussions, etc. that we have had about the off-leash dog problem over the years with the problem only worsening, I have given up on the Town doing anything about this and am only writing in the faint hope that somehow, some day, someone will take this problem seriously and do something about it.

Enjoy your week,

Ericka

Ericka B. Gray | *she/her*
Arlington, MA 02474
617.921.2506 Cell

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Arlington Park and Recreation Commission

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2024

Meetings are held in the 2nd Floor Board of Health Conference Room in the Community Center

January 9th

January 23

February 13

February 27

March 12

March 26

April 9

April 23

May 14

May 28

June 11

July 9

August 13

September 10

September 24

October 8

October 22

November 12

November 26

December 10

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

October 24, 2023

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Scott Walker, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Josh Fenollosa and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present. Shirley Canniff and Phil Lasker were not in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers: Amy Horton - Bark for Life, Judy Weingberg – Menotomy Gates Project

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Special Event Approval – Bark for Life

Amy Horton was present to answer questions from the Commission about the annual event request.

- Event request submitted by AHS student, Indigo Blankespoor.
- Ms. Rothenberg – Requested information on cost and fundraising. \$10 registration fee per dog. Raised \$7300 last year for American Cancer Society.
- Mr. Connelly – Event has had no issues in the past.
- Mr. Walker – Application states 50 participants. Last year there were 30 participants.
- Ms. Mayer – Advised that dogs were not allowed in the playground area and that off-leash hours on the Arlington side of the Rez end at 9am but continue past 9am on the Lexington side.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the event request, seconded by Ms. Mayer. Approved 3-0. Mr. Connelly will issue the permit.

Film Permitting Policy Review

Mr. Connelly presented an updated policy for review. He noted that the previous policy was over 10 years old and required small modifications. He also stated that the most recent production project was very successful with the participants being very easy to work with and respectful of all rules and conditions.

Ms. Mayer – Requested to have the word “additional” removed from the fees section of the General Guidelines.

Mr. Fenollosa – Recommended adding the link to the Parks and Recreation Commission Rules and Regs.

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the updated policy as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Approved 3-0.

Menotomy Rocks Park Jason Street Access Gates

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Weinberg met at Menotomy Rocks Park with Ornamental Iron Work Inc. to discuss the installation of a pedestrian gate and a double gate for the vehicle entrance. Ms. Weinberg stated that funding will be provided by the FOMRP. Estimated budget is \$5800 for both gates.

- DPW – Existing gate is beyond repair.
- Both gates will be of the same ornamental style. The original installation was done by the same company.
- A 3’ wide gate will be added to the pedestrian entrance.

Mr. Fenollosa – Inquired whether the Historical Commission needed to be consulted. Mr. Connelly stated that the style is identical to the existing gates but would consult with JoAnn Robinson.

Mr. Walker – Advised to ensure ADA compliance.

Ms. Mayer – Supports the vehicle gate but does not support the pedestrian gate.

- Wear and tear from constant opening and closing.
- Additional maintenance would be needed.
- Unwelcoming, “gated community” feel.

Mr. Connelly – Agreeing with Ms. Mayer stated that the Reservoir gates have been repaired four times and the Spy Pond Playgrounds gates twice just from volume of usage.

Ms. Reisberg – Suggested that the park would be safer for children with a gate.

Ms. Rothenberg, Mr. Fenollosa and Mr. Walker – Agreed with Ms. Mayer’s comments about the unwelcoming feeling of an entrance gate. Potential hazards were also identified including sidewalk obstructions from the gate being left open and the constant swinging to open and close. The location of the pedestrian walkway, “pin-style” gates, wood removal and granite posts were also discussed.

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the replacement of the vehicular gate with ornamental iron pending discussion with the Historical Commission, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Approved 3-0.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings –

- Permitting of alcohol for events on property under Park Commission jurisdiction.
- Cecily Miller - murals, TBD in November
- David Morgan and Claire Richter – CPA request, property jurisdiction discussion. Mr. Connelly will forward information to Commission members for review.

Correspondence Received

Emails were received from the following members of the public:

- Beth Melofchik – Off-leash dog times
- Dana Simon – Menotomy Dog Policy
- Amanda Fredo – Off-leash dogs at Parallel Park

Approval of Minutes

- Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023, as amended, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 3-0.

New Business

Mr. Connelly – CPA has invited the Commission to submit final applications for Menotomy and Courts projects.

Ms. Mayer, also a CPA Committee member - Both projects were determined to be eligible for CPA. CPAC did note a \$1M shortfall in the budget and may require the Commission to prioritize and/or phase the projects. Ms. Mayer advised that state funding would be available toward the end of the year, which could change funding availability.

Mr. Tironi – How much funding was needed for both projects? \$1.9M.

Public Comment –

Ms. Reisberg – Concerns surrounding alcohol permitting policies noting broken glass in the park. Suggested recycling bins and possible fees.

Mr. Tironi – Requested the Commissions support to install signage at McClennan designating “no mow” areas”. All costs will be paid for the Conservation Commission. The signage design will match Hurd Field. The “no mow” policy is needed to protect resting habitats and pollinators. Mr. Tironi will also consult Mr. Connelly about verbiage for signage to be installed at Mt. Gilboa to advise against creating bicycle paths on Conservation land.

Mr. Fenollosa – Requested more details about sign locations and numbers. Mr. Tironi presented diagrams of proposed locations. The Commission agreed that no vote was required and that Mr. Connelly will handle the signage requests administratively.

Ms. Rothenberg requested that FOMRP be reminded that all Spooky Walk signage needs to be removed after the event. Ms. Weinberg stated that she was on the committee and would relay the message to the group. Mr. Connelly will also send a reminder email.

Nancy Knoff – Inquired about the possibility of extending the Wellington Park path to Brattle Street. Ms. Mayer stated that the idea is possible but there is no funding anticipated at this time. Ms. Mayer shared a brief history of architect Mia Lehr’s work in Arlington and the linear park study she conducted around 1974-1976. In recent times the idea of extending Grove to Brattle Streets arose again but there was no funding to support the project. Additionally, the project became a flood control-based project. Ms. Knoff also suggested a pilot program to allow off-leash dogs at the Reservoir (aligning with Lexington) noting that 6-9am was restrictive. She also suggested allowing dogs to be off-leash in the woods at Menotomy Rocks Park. Mr. Connelly stated that by-laws prevent changing the off-leash hours. Mr. Connelly stated that off-leash dog discussions would need to be added as an agenda item to allow both sides to have a voice. The ACO has compiled data and will be making recommendations. Ms. Mayer encouraged discussion to be held through a public meeting process versus continuous small discussions at every PRC meeting. Ms. Rothenberg noted that off-leash dogs is a very contentious topic and recommended hiring a mediator and police presence for a public meeting.

Mr. Connelly presented the following statistics – Arlington offers off-leash dog hours every day between 6-9am at about 15 town parks in addition to the \$250K Thorndike dog park. Research of surrounding towns/cities shows that Arlington offers far more off-leash dog time than other communities.

Mr. Walker concluded the discussion by stating that the Commission would discuss the issue further at a future meeting to determine how to move forward. No votes or decisions would be made without the attendance of the other Commissioners. Ms. Weinberg requested an opportunity to conduct a walk through with Commission members to plead the case of off-leash dog supporters. The Commission uniformly noted that the number of complaints against off-leash dogs was equal to those requesting more hours and additional off-leash locations.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 8:15pm, seconded by Mr. Walker. Approved 3-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

November 14, 2023

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Phil Lasker, Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Josh Fenollosa and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and ConCom liaison Nathaniel Stevens were also present. Scott Walker was not in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers: David Morgan – Planning Department, Courtney Wilson – APD Animal Control Officer

Preliminary Matter: Jen Rothenberg, Park & Recreation Commission Vice-Chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Discussion with Planning Department – David Morgan

- a. 2025 CPA Applications – Mr. Morgan presented preliminary CPA applications for two projects, the McClennen Detention Pond Survey and the Public Land Management Plan Addendum. Mr. Morgan is requesting letters of support.

McClennen Detention Pond Survey - \$40K request to hire vendor to review current conditions including sedimentation and storm water retention, draw up plans to return to “as built” state and create an alternatives analysis.

- Mr. Lasker - The estimate seemed high for a topographical survey. Mr. Morgan agreed but noted that the cost may be higher because parts of the survey may need to be conducted underwater.
- Mr. Stevens - Stressed the need for maintenance, with which the condition of the pond may not be in the state that it is now.
- Ms. Mayer- The detention pond was installed to stop flooding in the adjacent neighborhood. Mr. Connelly shared that flooding has increased over the past three years.

Public Land Management Plan Addendum - \$25K request to inventory public lands, identify additional needs (playgrounds, courts, irrigation), improve field/turf conditions create management/maintenance plans. The plan also will consider impacts of climate change, historical sensitivity, DPW involvement and the influence of public art.

- Mr. Morgan – The existing plans expires in 2026. The scope of the project is the same as the original plan which was funded by CPA for \$30K. The ask is smaller because the scope is smaller. Will be on leave through March but will ensure contracts are in place by December 31, 2023.
- Mr. Connelly – Glad to see playgrounds and courts represented in the plan. Recommended that aquatics be considered in phase 3 of the plan. Inquired if the lower ask of \$25K was appropriate.
- Mr. Lasker – Turf maintenance plans are typically from the turf vendor.
- Mr. Stevens – Recommended including the Water Bodies Working Group and including a PRC liaison to tie the work into the plan.
- Ms. Carrier – Include review and inspection of safety issues.
- Mr. Fenollosa – Requested clarification of DPW’s involvement. Mr. Morgan – DPW practices, maintenance contracts.
- Ms. Mayer – Stressed the need for a maintenance plan and budget to ensure that projects reach their maximum life expectancy. Also requested further discussion regarding the removal of the

fence between Summer Street Field and the bike path. Mr. Morgan – Will discuss with Transportation Department.

Mr. Lasker made a motion to support the CPA applications for the McClennen Detention Pond Survey and the Public Land Management Plan Addendum, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

- b. 2025 Town Meeting Article Related to Property Ownership Clarifications – Mr. Morgan presented a list of locations listed as “general town properties” with recommendations to transfer ownership. Ownership transfer recommendations to Parks and Rec Commission include – Crosby, Florence Field, Paper Road parcel at the end of Magnolia Field. The Commission discussed the parcel layouts noting that an unidentified, separate parcel runs through Magnolia Field.

- Mr. Connelly – Discussion needed to determine ways to split parcels. Also noted that the Buzzell Field bench belongs to PRC.
- Ms. Mayer – Stressed the need for cleaner and clearer margins.
- Mr. Morgan – Regarding splitting parcels, will gather assessor’s data and have a discussion with the Town Manager and SelectBoard.

Mr. Morgan also identified several Open Space properties that are not zoned as open space. Examples include Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, zoned as industrial, Thorndike Field, zoned for 2-family housing, and MBTA properties which will be rezoned as “transit district”. The proposal to rezone open spaces concurrent with their current use will be presented at Town Meeting.

- Ms. Mayer – Inquired about private parcels included in the plan and Article 97 protection guarantees. Mr. Morgan will contact the State for clarification.

Off Leash Dog Program Discussion of Public Statement from the Park Commission

Ms. Rothenberg stated that the Commission will conduct a formal discussion and will hold public input at the end.

The Commission discussed the statement, noting that there is no new information since 2010 that warrants change in policies. The Commission will continue their mission to identify locations for fenced-in dog areas.

- Mr. Connelly – The statement is regarding existing policies and does not specifically address MRP/woods. The conversation was to discuss existing bylaws. Provided a brief history – the first proposal for off-leash dogs did not pass and the second proposal barely passed. The topic was very contentious and required a lot of compromise as the community was split 50/50.
- Ms. Mayer – Changes to the bylaws would affect commitments to ConCom, the disabilities commission, DPW, Safe Routes to School, etc. Acknowledging that both sides are very passionate, the Commission built in the ability to build additional fenced-in dog areas. Off-leash hours and locations are not flexible. Ms. Mayer also noted that the Arlington program has been highlighted in the Boston Globe as being one of the most dog-friendly towns in the area.

Mr. Lasker motioned to approve the statement, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Ms. Rothenberg invited public comment

- Marie Bertier (Brantwood Road) – 30 year abutter to MRP and 15 year dog owner. The community is different than it was in 2010. This is a mental health issue, not just a dog issue. Mr. Connelly - off-leash dog hours are permitted in the front field between 6-9am. Leashed dogs are permitted in the woods. The statement does not take away any existing conditions.
- Jan O’Halloran (Renfrew Street) – Wished the Boston Globe article stressed the community effort to clean and respect MRP. Stated that the MRP dog walkers are a group that takes pride in their community and

work together to self-govern. She also noted that dogs are able to exercise differently in the woods versus on a field. Mr. Connelly – User groups for all the town parks are very involved and are great about working together and with PRC.

- Sue Doctrow (Westminster Avenue) – Was a member of the initial article writers. She noted that the PRC was very supportive but that the article did not specify locations of specific hours. The 2010 plan was designed to be flexible and open. Ms. Doctrow's belief was that there would be an evolution from 2010 because flexibility was built into the plan. Ms. Mayer – The 2010 bylaw incorporated what was already existing. Mr. Connelly – There are just as many people against off-leash dogs as there are in favor. The emails and calls are equally for and against changes. The article does not allow flexibility with off-leash hours, allows flexibility only with PRC land but not land adjacent to schools or playgrounds.
- Liz Reisberg (Shawnee Road) – In 2010 she was against the by-law but now feels that it has made circumstances better. Impressed by the responsibility of dog owners over the years and feels that off-leash hours in the woods merits reconsideration. ACO Courtney Wilson – most recent complaint was from two elderly women who were knocked down by off-leash dogs running through MRP. She did go on to note that most of the dogs she encounters are well behaved but stressed that bites and injuries outweigh everything else.
- Adrian Gropper (Cleveland Street) – Inquired about a process to study/survey neighboring communities. Suggested gathering volunteers to assist and bring new proposal to TM. Mr. Connelly – Citizen Warrants required signatures of 10 registered voters. Ms. Mayer – Noted that the survey would need to note each city/town's parameters as they can vary greatly. She noted that Lexington allows off-leash dogs on conservation land but not recreation land as an example.
- Kristi Rostkowski (Mt. Vernon Street) – Stressed the mental health benefits of walking and being outside with a dog. Also noting the benefits of having a dog as a family member. She enjoys watching dogs have fun off-leash in the parks but does not want the experience of a fenced in dog area. Inquired about training programs.
- Anita _____ (Cleveland Street) – Fresh Pond in Cambridge has off-leash dog hours all day long with no problems. The space is shared with elderly walkers, children, bicyclists and individuals in wheelchairs. Feels that dogs are too cramped in a fenced in area.
- Matiz Rostkowski (Mt Vernon Street) – Moved to Arlington in 2007 when off-leash dogs were not permitted. Requested more information on the outcomes from reviewing the policy. Mr. Connelly – There is no jurisdiction to extend hours past 9am. However, the Commission does have the power to eliminate hours. But he again stressed that the Commission statement is not taking any existing conditions away. The Commission's focus at this time is creating fenced-in options.
- Ms. Canniff – Stressed that most of the attendees at this evening's meeting were from MRP. She noted that on other parts of town people complain that off-leash dogs are a huge problem in playgrounds, on school grounds, public property etc. While she appreciates the sense of community MRP groups have developed around dog ownership, the Commission hears just as many complaints and opposing views from the rest of the town. Unlike MRP, other neighborhoods are requesting fenced-in dog areas. The Commission's responsibility is to create and maintain balance for all citizens. It was again stressed that the statement does not take any existing conditions away.
- Mr. Lasker – Noted that there are many complaints of incidents at other parks as well. Ms. Canniff added that many of the incidents occur during "on-leash" times.
- Ms. Doctrow – Advised the Commission that someone was using her email fraudulently to send complaints about off-leash dogs at the Rez to Mr. Connelly.
- Sebastian Diaz (Valley Road) – Stated that it is human nature to report the negative more frequently than the positive. Does not believe that people are reporting good experiences to PRC. He also shared that he has been very aware of dog owner responsibility and experiences since his daughter was bit at age 6. Mr. Connelly again noted that the messages he receives are 50/50 negative and positive experiences.
- Sheri Stratton (Harlow Street) – Would like to see a pilot program allowing off-leash dogs in the woods because she estimates that 90% of the walkers she sees in the woods do have dogs. Ms. Mayer advised the group that one of the conditions to get the 2010 bylaw passed was to not allow off-leash dogs in the woods.

Concerns that have been raised include dogs being out of the line of site or voice control, dog waste not being removed and dog waste runoff affecting Hills Pond.

- Ms. Reisberg noted that no one condones off-leash dogs hurting people but stressed the importance of walking the entire park loop to improve mental health. She stated that the ACO's ticketing was too stressful for dog walkers. Ms. Rothenberg reiterated that Ms. Reisberg stated that MRP dog walkers are allowing their dogs off-leash in the woods during on-leash hours. The Commission is committed to balance and has to consider the mental health of those who are afraid of dogs as well.
- Ms. Canniff – Admires MRP as a hidden gem but it is now being identified as a dog park. She again stressed that there are just as many people complaining to the Commission that they can't use MRP anymore for other recreational activities, including bringing their children to the park, because of the off-leash dogs. MRP is for everyone to use which is why ACO Wilson is there to maintain safety and compliance with the bylaws.
- Ruth Esposito (Pleasant Street) – Asked about other wooded areas in town. Ms. Mayer – Most wooded areas are under the jurisdiction of ConCom, not PRC.

Ms. Rothenberg advised attendees to send any additional comments to Mr. Connelly via email.

Mr. Connelly will post the position statement on the town website after minutes are approved.

Mr. Fenollosa suggested the possibility of Mt. Gilboa as an off-leash dog site. Mr. Stevens stated that off-leash dogs are never permitted on ConCom property.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings –

- Permitting of alcohol for events on property under Park Commission jurisdiction.
- Park Permitting for Arlington Private Preschools – Roger Pierce School 11/28
- Public Arts Mural Conversation – Cecily Miller 11/28

Correspondence Received

Emails were received from the following members of the public:

- B. Gravely – Hills Hill
- J. Weinberg – Off-leash Menotomy review
- M. Bernstein – Off-leash Menotomy review

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for 10/24/2023 were tabled. A quorum was not present.

New Business

- Hills Hill Public Meeting – tomorrow evening 6pm. Meeting is to discuss existing conditions and will be conducted via ZOOM as consultant is located in Arizona.
- Turf Meeting – 12/5
- Parallel/Menotomy – 12/6

Public Comment –

N/A

Mr. Lasker motioned to adjourn at 9:25pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

November 28, 2023

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Scott Walker, Phil Lasker, Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg and Josh Fenollosa. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and ConCom liaison Susan Chapnick were also present. Sarah Carrier was not in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers: Cecily Miller – Public Art and Community Engagement, Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Park Permitting for Arlington Private Preschools

Mr. Connelly stated that he has had several phone/email conversations about the permitting proposal with many of the program directors in town. It was noted that representatives from individual preschools were not in attendance this evening. Kim Grubb, director of the Recreation's Kid Care Preschool, did send out a program director's network email advising them of the meeting and how to contact the Recreation office.

Mr. Connelly –About 10 years ago informally surveyed which organizations use the parks/playgrounds.

- The Recreation office has received complaints from residents about the constant use of parks/playgrounds by organized programs, limiting the use for parents, grandparents and young children during the day.
- As a result of previous complaints Mr. Connelly has already worked successfully with two programs to permit specific locations and times.
- Programs are advertising town properties as part of their outdoor curriculum and play spaces in their brochures.
- Exponentially increasing use is causing more wear and tear on the equipment and surfaces resulting in the need for more money for maintenance, repairs and new equipment.
- Presented a draft policy for review – To limit overcrowding the policy would require programs to submit a permit request for a specific time slot each day. \$3-5K per program, fees to be built into tuition costs for 2024/2025 school year. Permitting will begin immediately with fees being imposed as of July 1. Balances would be adjusted, taking into consideration lack of use during bad weather etc.

Ms. Canniff – Explained licensing qualifications and differences. She suggested taking enrollment numbers into account when determining the fee as there are family care programs in town with as few as 8 children that would be required to pay a similar rate to center based programs with over 100 children. Mr. Connelly also noted that smaller programs use the parks/playgrounds once a day for a period of time, but the larger programs use the space in shifts over the course of the entire day with different groups of children. This practice is pushing the public out of the parks.

Mr. Lasker – Suggested tracking and scheduling use on Play Local.

Ms. Canniff – Will share the list of licensed programs from the EEC website.

Bench Donation at Reservoir – Submitted by Stephen Emsbo-Mattingly. Requesting dedication plaque on existing bench located at the Monroe Brook inlet. Initial wording was adjusted in accordance with Commission guidelines and approved by Mr. Connelly. Ms. Chapnick noted that Liam Mattingly was very involved with ConCom and felt that the bench and location was a fitting tribute.

Spy Pond Picnic Table Donation – Submitted by Paul Harvey. Mr. Connelly met on-site with Karen Grossman (FOSPP) to discuss ideal locations for a picnic table installation. The Commission determined that the flat, grassy area near the trash receptacles would likely be the best choice. It was noted that while the area is not accessible, there is an accessible table next to it. Ms. Rothenberg advised that this area was also used for dry-land exercise by A-B Crew. Plaque wording was approved by Mr. Connelly. The plaque will either be applied to the top center of the table or on the side.

Correspondence Received

1. Parallel construction responses have been received via email.
2. Email letter from Rogers Pierce Board of Directors regarding park/playground permitting.

Approval of Minutes - Tabled

New Business - N/A

Public Comment - N/A

Mr. Lasker motioned to adjourn at 9:45pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.

December 1st, 2023

Joe Connelly
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington, MA

RE: Crusher Lot Tree Inventory

Dear Mr. Connelly,

Thank you for contacting Davey Resource Group, Inc. “DRG” regarding tree inventory services. In support of your objective to inventory the urban woodlot trees in Crusher Lot, DRG is pleased to present a pricing estimate for a tree inventory of the ~4–5 acre wooded area behind Ottoson Middle School in Arlington, MA. Through DRG and our dedicated team of arboricultural specialists, you will be assured of quality arborist services and professional assessments to help you achieve your long-term goals.



Crusher Lot is a small wooded urban area with trails located behind Ottoson Middle School.

Tree Inventory

A DRG arborist will inspect and inventory all significant trees within the designated area of Crusher Lot. The designated area is bounded by playing fields and a parking area behind Ottoson Middle School to the northeast,

residential backyards to the southeast, Gray Street to the southwest, and is less clearly defined to the northwest where a strip of undeveloped land between residential properties abuts the lot. DRG requests that this boundary be flagged or otherwise marked prior to inventory to ensure that all trees collected are property of the town of Arlington and that the inventory does not trespass on private property. If the boundary of the lot is not the residential backyards to the southeast, DRG requests that boundary also be firmly defined before the inventory. Significant trees in the project area are defined as trees greater than or equal to 4.0 inches diameter-at-breast-height (DBH). The arborist will perform a visual assessment of each tree's current condition and size and will conduct a risk assessment for each tree.

THE DATA COLLECTION WILL INCLUDE:

- **Tree location** on the property using aerial imagery and internal device GPS.
- **Tree ID Number** - a unique numeric identifier for each tree.
- **Tree genus and species.** Dead trees without distinguishing characteristics will not be speciated. DRG does not typically speciate apples/crabapples, yews, cherries (except for black cherry), hawthorns, or serviceberries. If full speciation of these genera is necessary, please contact DRG for revised pricing.
- **DBH** - measured at 4.5 feet above ground level. Where trees have multiple stems at DBH height, the arborist will record the DBH of the largest stem.
- **Multi-Stem Tree** - yes/no. A multi-stem tree is defined as having more than one stem at DBH height.
- **Condition** - good, fair, poor, or dead. Trees in good condition have no significant defects. Trees in fair condition have defects which may be resolved with time such as superficial wounds or small amounts of dead wood in the crown. Trees in poor condition have significant defects which cannot be resolved with time, such as stem decay. Dead trees show no signs of life.
- **Prohibited Species** - yes/no. A prohibited species is defined, for the purpose of this inventory, as a tree found on the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List, available here: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list>. Trees included on the list at the time of this inventory are: Amur cork-tree, black locust, common buckthorn*, glossy buckthorn*, autumn olive*, gray willow*, Japanese black pine, large gray willow*, Norway maple, sycamore maple, and tree-of-heaven.
 - *may grow in shrub or tree form. Only individuals growing as trees will be collected during the inventory.
- **Maintenance Need** - remove, prune, none. Trees will be recommended for removal if they are dead or have irrecoverable defects which may cause them to be a hazard if near walking trails, backyards, structures, or other publicly accessible areas. Trees will be recommended for pruning if they have dead or defective limbs 2" diameter or larger. Please note that maintenance may only be required for trees which are near paths or other areas where people may congregate. The town may choose to maintain other trees at their discretion.
- **Risk Assessment & Rating** - see below.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND RATING:

During the inventory, DRG's urban foresters perform an inspection of each tree that follows the ANSI tree risk assessment (ANSI 2017). For the town's inventory, DRG will complete a 360-degree ground-based visual inspection of the crown, trunk, trunk flare, above-ground roots, and site conditions around the tree in relation to targets. The assessment only includes conditions detected from the ground. Visual inspection does not include aerial or subterranean inspection, testing, or analysis unless stated in the scope of work. DRG is not responsible for the discovery or identification of non-visually observable, latent, dormant, or hidden conditions

or hazards. If desired, DRG can provide additional levels of assessment or analysis for an additional fee that might help identify or further explore specific defects or tree conditions of interest.

The specified period for the risk assessment is one year. The risk part of this inventory and evaluation is to keep in compliance with the most recent standards and practices in the arboricultural industry. It is important to note that DRG's inspections are "rapid assessments" and are meant to show a need for further study; the assessments are not legally binding in any litigation.

For the tree risk assessment, DRG's urban foresters assign each tree one qualitative risk rating using the risk categorization matrices found in the ISA's Best Management Practices - Tree Risk Assessment, Second Edition (E. Thomas Smiley, Nelda Matheny, and Sharon Lilly 2017). Various and multiple failure scenarios help determine a tree's risk rating. The failure mode (i.e., branch, whole tree, codominant stem) with the most significant risk serves as the overall tree risk rating.

DELIVERABLES WILL INCLUDE:

- **Excel spreadsheet** of data collected
- **Map** showing tree location and tree ID numbers over aerial imagery of the project area (see Appendix A for an example of what this map will look like).

TIMELINE:

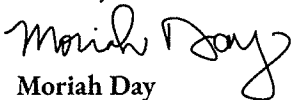
Provided all contract paperwork is complete by December 8th, all fieldwork will be completed and deliverables provided before December 31, 2023.

Experience and Expertise

Davey Resource Group, Inc is the arboricultural and horticultural consulting subsidiary to The Davey Tree Expert Company. With extensive experience assisting private and commercial properties and other entities including municipalities and utilities, we work with asset managers around the country and provide customized solutions to managing and tracking vital environmental assets. Our urban forestry services have provided clients nationwide with the ability to accurately and sustainably manage their critical 'green' infrastructure.

The DRG team is devoted to providing excellent customer service through our technical expertise and our passion for innovative solutions. We recognize that our success depends on meeting your needs and we are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with you on your project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Moriah Day

Project Manager

Davey Resource Group, Inc.

ISA Certified Arborist NE-7281A

www.daveyresourcegroup.com

AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED

The following pricing options have been developed for consultations and reports as requested. Any additional consultation or effort would be priced at our consulting rate of \$125 per hour. Any on-site supervision by an arborist outside the scope of work will require a three (3)-hour minimum charge.

Hill's Hill Tree Inventory

Description of Service	Contract Type	Price
Task 1: fieldwork and deliverables	Time and Materials	\$125 per hour Est. 48 hours
Project Total (Estimated)		\$6,000

By signing this form, I do hereby acknowledge acceptance of the scope of work and associated fee, as well as the terms and conditions and limited warranty contained herein. Furthermore, my signature authorizes the work to be performed effective the date of my signature and denotes that I am an authorized representative of the Client with authority to authorize and bind my company.

Client Name:

Authorizing Signature: _____

Name:

Title:

Date:

Phone Number:

Email:

Davey Resource Group, Inc.

Name/Title: Moriah Day / Project Manager

Date: 11/28/2023

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All pricing is valid for 30 days from the date of this proposal, after which time we reserve the right to amend fees as needed.
- Time and materials (T&M) estimates will be billed using the labor rates in DRG's current commercial price list. Fixed Fee Contract Prices will be billed in monthly increments for the percentage of work completed in the billing period. Firm-Fixed Unit Prices will be billed in monthly increments for the number of completed units in the billing period.
- Payment terms are net 30 days.
- If prevailing wage requirements are discovered after the date of this proposal, we reserve the right to negotiate our fees.
- The client is responsible for any permit fees, taxes, and other related expenses, unless noted as being included in our proposal.
- The client shall provide 48 hours' notice of any meetings where the consultant's attendance is required.
- Unless otherwise stated, one round of revisions to deliverables is included in our base fee. Additional edits or revisions will be billed on a time and material (T&M) basis.
- All reports are provided only to the client unless otherwise directed.
- DRG is not responsible for determining parcel boundaries and cannot guarantee tree ownership.

LIMITED WARRANTY

Davey Resource Group, Inc. ("DRG") provides this limited warranty ("Limited Warranty") in connection with the provision of services by DRG (collectively the "Services") under the agreement between the parties, including any bids, orders, contracts, or understandings between the parties (collectively the "Agreement").

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Agreement, this Limited Warranty will apply to all Services rendered by DRG and supersedes all other warranties in the Agreement and all other terms and conditions in the Agreement that conflict with the provisions of this Limited Warranty. Any terms or conditions contained in any other agreement, instrument, or document between the parties, or any document or communication from you, that in any way modifies the provisions in this Limited Warranty, will not modify this Limited Warranty nor be binding on the parties unless such terms and conditions are approved in a writing signed by both parties that specifically references this Limited Warranty.

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Limited Warranty, for a period of ninety (90) days from the date Services are performed (the "Warranty Period"), DRG warrants to Customer that the Services will be performed in a timely, professional and workmanlike manner by qualified personnel.

To the extent the Services involve the evaluation or documentation ("Observational Data") of trees, tree inventories, natural areas, wetlands and other water features, animal or plant species, or other subjects

(collectively, "Subjects"), the Observational Data will pertain only to the specific point in time it is collected (the "Time of Collection"). DRG will not be responsible nor in any way liable for (a) any conditions not discoverable using the agreed upon means and methods used to perform the Services, (b) updating any Observational Data, (c) any changes in the Subjects after the Time of Collection (including, but not limited to, decay or damage by the elements, persons or implements; insect infestation; deterioration; or acts of God or nature [collectively, "Changes"]), (d) performing services that are in addition to or different from the originally agreed upon Services in response to Changes, or (e) any actions or inactions of you or any third party in connection with or in response to the Observational Data. If a visual inspection is utilized, visual inspection does not include aerial or subterranean inspection, testing, or analysis unless stated in the scope of work. When performing tree inventories or assessments, DRG will not be liable for the discovery or identification of non-visually observable, latent, dormant, or hidden conditions or hazards, and does not guarantee that Subjects will be healthy or safe under all circumstances or for a specified period of time, or that remedial treatments will remedy a defect or condition.

To the extent you request DRG's guidance on your permitting and license requirements, DRG's guidance represents its recommendations based on its understanding of and experience in the industry and does not guarantee your compliance with any particular federal, state or local law, code or regulation.

DRG may review information provided by or on behalf of you, including, without limitation, paper and digital GIS databases, maps, and other information publicly available or other third-party records or conducted interviews (collectively, "Source Information"). DRG assumes the genuineness of all Source Information. DRG disclaims any liability for errors, omissions, or inaccuracies resulting from or contained in any Source Information.

If it is determined that DRG has breached this Limited Warranty, DRG will, in its reasonable discretion, either: (i) re-perform the defective part of the Services or (ii) credit or refund the fees paid for the defective part of the Services. **This remedy will be your sole and exclusive remedy and DRG's entire liability for any breach of this Limited Warranty.** You will be deemed to have accepted all of the Services if written notice of an alleged breach of this Limited Warranty is not delivered to DRG prior to the expiration of the Warranty Period.

To the greatest extent permitted by law, except for this Limited Warranty, DRG makes no warranty whatsoever, including, without limitation, any warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, whether express or implied, by law, course of dealing, course of performance, usage of trade or otherwise.

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Appendix A: Sample Site Map

