

# ***Parks & Recreation Department***

*Dedham Recreation Center*

*269 Common Street*

*781-751-9250*



*Robert Stanley*  
*Director*

*Debra Anderson*  
*Assistant & Program Director*

*Tracey White*  
*Administrative Assistant*

April 11, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:

Lisa Moran - Chairwoman  
Chuck Dello Iacono - Vice Chairman  
Alix O'Connell - Secretary  
Jonathan Briggs - Member  
Lisa Farnham - Member  
Robert Stanley - Director

Absent

Debra Anderson - Asst. Director  
Tracey White - Assistant to the Director

Chairwoman Moran read the Governor's statement

Roll Call Attendance:

Commissioner O'Connell - Present  
Commissioner Farnham - Present  
Commissioner Briggs - Present  
Commissioner Dello Iacono - Present  
Chairwoman Moran - Present

Public Comment - None

## Minutes

Jan, Feb, March 2022 minutes were presented.

Commissioner Dello - Feb - Over an hour discussing permits, we should detail them out. Some additional comments would be great.

Chairwoman Moran – Who seconded the 4 on the Fourth? – Lisa F – Chuck - March minutes will change who voted on the 2nd

Commissioner Dello– March – minor changes – 3rd page – Bob was answering someone’s question – random question. We believe it related to Bob saying about pick up games. Change to be made.

**Jan 2022 minutes** – no changes to January 2022 minutes – Commission Farnham made motion; Commission O’Connell made second.

Roll vote: All five Commissioners voted yes.

Chuck – We can amend – and we can get them up on site.

**Feb 2022 minutes:**

Commission Briggs made motion; Commission O’Connell made second.

Roll vote: All five Commissioners voted yes – with changes to be made.

**March 2022 minutes** – (change to be made about insurance and who seconded the motion)

Commission O’Connell made the motion, Commission Farnham made second.

Roll vote: All five Commissioners voted yes – with changes as noted to be made.

### **Re-organization of Officers**

**Nominations for Chair:**

Commissioner Briggs – Nominated Commission O’Connell for Chair, Commissioner Farnham – Second

Discussion – None

Roll Call – Commissioners O’Connell, Farnham, Briggs, and Moran voted Yes

Commissioner Dellolacono voted No

Chairwoman Moran turned the meeting over to newly elected Chairwoman O’Connell with congratulations.

### Nominations for Vice Chair

Commissioner Moran nominated Commission Farnham for Vice Chair; Commission Briggs seconded the motion.

All five Commissioners voted Yes

### Nomination for Secretary:

Commissioner Farnham nominated Commission Briggs for Secretary; Commission Moran seconded the motion.

All five Commissioners voted Yes

### Earth Day Cleanup:

Christine Ryan (CR)- Background – 10 years now doing them with Virginia Leclair and Neponset Valley – Did not do an organized one during Covid – and without Virginia and Neponset, Sarah MacDonald is overseeing. Event is at 9 am and goes to Noon. Joe Flanagan & Bob Stanley have been quite helpful over the years.

Paquita Bass will be focusing on Gonzalez Field with Girl Scouts/ Teens (will get community service hours).

Chairwoman O'Connell asked if Rustcraft was also on the list. Commission Moran asked for clarification whether this was meant for the field itself. Christine Ryan clarified it was for the entire street – she hadn't checked the field itself (which is in good shape).

Commissioner Dello asked that if they are pruning trees, speak to Tree Warden (Joe Flanagan) – or if going near conservation land, please to reach out to Conservation Commission.

Commission Farnham asked whether rain or shine – It has never rained!!

Commissioner Dello – Asked which fields for the motion. CR >>Oakdale Common, Gonzalez Field. He also asked about Mother Brook for Rita Mae Cushman.

Motion – made by Commissioner Dello – to approve Clean up at Oakdale Common, Gonzalez Field, and Condon Park  
2nd – by Commissioner Moran

Roll Call – All five Commissioners voted Yes

### Tree Request

Paul Reynold (PR)- Project to plant a tree in honor of Annemarie McMurtry – Representative McMurtry’s Mother. PR thought Mill Pond Park would be nice.

Recommendation - Red bud tree – has heart shape leaves. Will work with Tree warden, Parks and Recreation, and Civic Pride to help make this come to fruition. Funding by the Reynolds family. Using the nursery in Walpole that the Town uses. He has made all calls already.

We cannot do a formal vote as the item wasn’t noted by itself on the agenda.

Commissioner Dello – Confusion about the tree for Oakdale Common. He pointed out that for Mill Pond Park – they should reach out to Conservation and for the tree in Oakdale, he should reach out to Joe Hamilton in regards to the Oakdale Common.

Commissioner Briggs – He just wants to make sure that this tree has blessing of Comcon. Make sure it is indigenous. Proper dedication – would there be an expectation of signage? (PR – Maybe just a little copper medallion in the ground.)

CR – Mill Pond – maybe some educational signage should be put there – as she has seen that people are feeding the animals.

Commissioner Moran – Bob Stanley has already spoken to Joe Hamilton, and he is in full support of the tree.

### Mother Brook Lawn Signs

Mary Gilbert (MG)– Open Studio signs – first time in two years – The dates are April 30 and May 1, 2022. She has gone to SB and the schools. She is now coming to us for our permission.

Chair – Gonzalez – where was she thinking?

MG – SB gave permission for ground level near Gonzalez

Moran – Asked for clarification about where at Gonzalez she is thinking -

MG – She is talking about the parking lot

Commissioner Dello – Please keep away from the Barnes Memorial.

Chairwoman O'Connell– All the same size?

MG – Yes – All the same

Motion – Commission Briggs with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Moran

Roll – All five Commissioners voted Yes.

### **Permits – As needed**

Heath P (HP - Baseball), Paul Y (PY - Soccer), Chuck S (CS - Softball) – In regards to signage at the fields

Commissioner Moran – Reminder that we do not have a formal form for signage. We need to remember for next year in regards to our sign policy that was just approved this year.

PY – Clarification for signage – what does it mean inner / outer signage?

Commissioner Moran – Signs to be facing into the field - For Rustcraft – the signs on the fence at the street, the signs should face into the field and not towards the street.

PY – Question about the status of signage at Gonzalez –

Commissioner Dello – He had the concern about the strength of the fencing.

PY – 2 feet signage

Commissioner Dello– Error on his behalf – he had recommended the sign size

Commissioner Briggs – All the signs the same size?

PY – 4 feet height by 6 feet long.

Commissioner Briggs – We just want a standard size – whatever the size is. Clarifying – we can support the fence – but we need to clarify what we want to see what we are going to do in the future.

PY – He only has two signs for soccer (at Rustcraft)

Motion – By Commissioner Moran, Commission Briggs second

Commissioner Farnham asked if she needed to recuse herself. Commissioner Moran said it is good practice to do so. Roll – Commissioners Briggs, Dello, Moran, O'Connell – all said yes with Commissioner Farnham abstaining.

CS– Churchill and Sugrue – 3x5 signs individual sponsors Churchill and Sugrue) and two larger signs with all sponsor names at Sullivan@ Memorial, Loewen – mesh signs.

Commissioner Farnham – How big are the bigger ones?

CS – These are 4x8

Commissioner Moran – These would have to be facing into the field.

Motion by Commissioner Farnham, Commissioner Briggs 2nd  
Roll – All five Commissioners voted yes.

HP - Baseball

All signs to go on Capone – facing into the field

Nagle – Long sign – sunblock screen – full

Commissioner Moran – Recusing myself – but wanted to clarify where the field are in regards to the Nagle signs.

Heath – Asked in regards to the Needham Bank sign on Rustcraft concession stand.

Commissioner - Money that will be raised for the signage on the snack stand sign will go directing into the P&R revolving fund.

Motion by Commissioner Farnham, Commissioner Briggs 2nd

Roll – Commissioners Farnham, Briggs, Dello, Chair - All voted Yes – Commissioner Moran abstained.

### Discussion With Town Manager

Will need to table as we didn't hear back from Leon Goodwin, Town Manager

### School Fields

Director– Tried to make a higher priority this week. We irrigated and planted seed. We cannot due all things that we do with the park fields. Yes, we know they need work but we cannot due all the items that we do at the other fields based on the MOU and State laws. (fertilizer)

Commissioner Moran– Please bring in Keith Hampe (KH) as he was who brought this discussion to us last month. He questioned about Riverdale and Greenlodge.

KH – He spoke to Town Manager about using Lawn and Pool and Norfolk Aggie about doing work during hours that were outside of P&R hours.

### Code of Conduct (COC)

Chairwoman O'Connell – Bringing it back up for discussion as it was before Commissioner Farnham was on the board.

Commissioner Moran – The SB is the only board that has passed this COC. In speaking to the other boards, there is no other board that is planning to pass this. I want to make sure that we are not making this so restrictive for future P&R Commissioners that they

would be held to a higher standard when the other boards are not doing. If we are going to do this – and make it mean something, we need to make sure it is right. We, as human beings, should be doing this anyways with our own personal conduct. It also doesn't say on what we would be doing wrong.

Chairwoman O'Connell – It's a re-affirmation to let the Town.

Commissioner Briggs – We are policing ourselves as elected officials. It doesn't need "teeth" – it is just basic decent interaction – on its own merit, this outlines how, we as a commission believe we should be acting.

Commissioner Dello– In reviewing this COC and the SB COC from a couple of years ago, makes reference to Mass State Law and Town Charter. There is no COC in our TC and the SB COC isn't even on our website. In looking up State law, the closest is Law 268A – that is really toward gifts and kickbacks – not towards language.

Chairwoman O'Connell – This is just an understanding.

Commissioner Dello – We need to do our ethics review every two years. So why is it here as we need to do it already (reference of A & B)?

Commissioner Farnham – COC – a statement mentions responsibilities of Director – but with the new working relationship, is this correct?

Chairwoman O'Connell – She will speak to Nancy Baker & Town Counsel

Commissioner Moran – Doesn't think we are way off but just need some tweaking.

Joan Connors (raised hand) - She just wanted to share her point of view. Confusion of ethics vs behavior. She takes it as two different issues. She believes that it is meant for the Behavior of Board vs Ethically what the board she be doing.

### Committee Updates

Commissioner Moran – Dog Park – 10 days of posting the notification - we have four candidates for three spots. We need to schedule the meeting.

Chairwoman O'Connell – Monday April 25 – 7 pm (later changed to 4/26)

Commissioner Dello – Posting is up to the 17th

Commissioner Farnham– Trenton St. MOU – Where does this stand?

Commissioner Moran – It is with Dimitria Sullivan/ SB. I will loop you in with the email.

Commissioner Briggs– Open Space – Moving forward with mapping project. No real update. Also, MOU with schools – we should look into this (when we re-org).

Chairwoman O'Connell – Master Plan – presented to planning board. They need to approve to move on. And Branding – new Dedham logos.

### Director Report

- Egg Drop – ran very smooth. Traffic was heavy (had election). May need a few more police helping with traffic. Secretary of State Bill Galvin was actually in Dedham and thought it was interesting we chose to have Egg Drop on the same day as election day.
- Fields – We touched on school field. We are still tackling pump at Rustcraft.
- Meeting last week at Dedham Common – talked with ways to improve area. Joe Flanagan and Stephanie Radner were involved.
- Concession Stand – Gonzalez – discussion needs to happen. We have run into lots of issues. We will need to replace the windows as well. We already had one smash.
- Commissioner Moran – Asked about a key code for the bathrooms at Gonzalez.
- Commissioner Dello – Mentions that there is no sign on the keys that say you can't copy – and that we have one master key for all locks.

### Assistant Director / Program Director (as presented by Director)

- Kayak spots went great – sold last one.
- Dance recital is on.
- Next month is hiring for summer. Met with appropriate parties to make sure runs smooth.
- Multi sports started last week.
- Golf starts in May.
- Track starts at end of month.

Commissioner Dello – Do we have an agreement for Dedham Common? Historical site.

Commissioner Farnham – Any update on Capen?

Commissioner Moran – I sent out an email to Dimitria Sullivan, Town Manager, and Superintendent. Have not heard back. Will loop you in on this email as well.

### Pool Director (updated by Commissioner Moran)

- Lifeguard classes and diving classes
- Clippers had their banquet on Election Day at the pool.
- Private lessons are on going
- Triathlon – end of May?



Circling back based on a text – we are changing the date from April 25th to April 26th. (Dog Park Committee interviews).

### **Old Business:**

Chairwoman O'Connell – On website, Manor project is still listed. – should we take this down? The Director will disable as he wants to keep info.

Chairwoman O'Connell – Any follow up on sponsor table? Needs to be approved by Police Chief.

### **New Business:**

Commissioner Farnham – Pickle Ball – Jon & Lisa toured Churchill as it was a great site (was before) for pickle ball. We would need to expand the foot print of the basketball court. Will be meeting with Joe Flanagan tomorrow at 10 am.

Commissioner Briggs – We think 2 basketball courts and 2 pickleball courts would work.

Commissioner Dello– We used to have all the equipment.

Commissioner Briggs – Mill Pond Park – Dan Hart reached out via the group and asked what they can do. The walkway needs some work.

Commissioner Briggs – Negotiated with LL Beans – we are getting two days a month that we would control. It would be up to us for what we would like to do.

Commissioner Moran - Lepchruan Trap Contest– Thanks to Lisa and Alix for judging– Gave Ribbons and Certificates and Ron's Gift cards. Thanks to all watching and being here tonight. Also congratulated Chairwoman O'Connell on her first meeting.

Chairwoman O'Connell – Shari Laurent– Could we do special times for special needs children? Perhaps an hour earlier – like a soft start so that children who wouldn't be okay in a crowd. Also - Bike Rack at Rustcraft? We had some over the years.

**Next meeting** – May 9, 2022 – 7 pm **Adjourn:** Moran motion, Briggs second,

Commissioners Moran, Briggs, Farnham, Chairwoman – all voted yes, Commissioner Dello no longer with us – but we had a quorum to end meeting.

Meeting ended at 9:36 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Commissioner Moran