

MINUTES PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
November 20, 2008

Commissioners Present: Chairman Wakelin, Secretary Tomlin, Commissioner Esau.
Superintendent Chirokas

Chairman Wakelin opened the meeting at 7:05pm.

Chairman Wakelin reported that about \$600.00 was raised by the Grove Fund Raiser Committee. He stated that the Committee were still interested in providing ice skating at the Grove. Superintendent Chirokas reported that according to Town council the Department cannot advertise that there is public skating.

The minutes of the October 16, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Secretary Tomlin presented the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Esau followed by a 3-0 vote.

Superintendent Chirokas then gave an update on the irrigation and field conditions at Memorial Field and High School fields.. He said they will have to go back in the spring and hydro seed.

Chairman Wakelin asked that they get the Tennis Courts on the next meeting Agenda along with the Little League.

The Commissioners then met with Katherine Roth of the Community Preservation Coalition who gave a lengthy presentation regarding the Community Preservation Act. If you enter the program there is a five year commitment. She explained it involves a surcharge on the property tax, but exemptions could be added. She also mentioned that a surcharge is not a change in the tax rate. Community Preservation Act funds may be used to purchase open space, affordable housing and historical preservation. Since the Grove is registered on the National Historical Landmark Registry the Park and Recreational Department would be eligible for a percentage of the funds. Superintendent Chirokas mentioned he thought the Selectmen should be the ones that will put this to a vote, and that the Planning Board, Historical Commission should be involved.

If more information is needed the CPA Website has far more information that could be useful. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting of the Park and Recreation Commissioners. They thanked Katherine Ross for her detailed presentation.

The Commissioners then met with Susan Brennan from the Abington Board of Health. Discussion followed regarding the recycling program. Ms. Brennan said the Board of Health was willing to help out in any way, just let them know. She would also like (2) people from each Town Youth Sports Organizations to help maintain the recycling activity. Superintendent Chirokas stated that they will need at least 20-25 recycling retainers to put around Town. Chairman Wakelin thought they should form a sub-committee to check out the recycling program and come up with a game plan on how to handle it.

Secretary Tomlin presented the motion to have Superintendent Chirokas move forward and get some recycle bins. Motion seconded by Chairman Wakelin followed by a 3-0 vote.

It was also mentioned that in the spring to start with a recycling program from the Board of Health and the Park and Recreation Department. The Board thanked Susan Brennan for coming and for all her help.

Secretary Tomlin presented a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Motion seconded by Commissioner Esau followed by a 3-0 vote.