

Town of Chester
203 Middlesex Avenue
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Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission

These minutes are subject to Commission approval.

Wednesday, September 28, 2016
7:00pm
Chester Town Hall, Conference Room C

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Members Present: Ivey Gianetti, Deron Grabel, Aaron Page, Elizabeth Williams, John Williams.

Members Absent: Susan Hotkowski

Also in Attendance: Elizabeth Netsch

Minutes

On a motion duly made by Aaron Page and seconded by Elizabeth Williams it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the meeting on April 12, 2016 amended to change the date from March to April, change the motion made by John Williams to made by Susan Hotkowski to accept the minutes of the meeting on March 15, 2016, and on the first line of the second page change Mike Seagen to Peter Wallace.

Audience of Citizens

None

Director's Report

The Director had distributed the Annual Report of the Park and Recreation Commission for fiscal year 2015/2016.

She reported that during the summer of 2016 396 camp spaces were filled, averaging 50 per week, and contributing \$27,985 to the town's general fund revenue, \$2,065 over budget. A record 162 nonresident park passes were sold.

Mrs. Netsch referred to her comments regarding the *Plan of Conservation & Development* and the department's facility needs.

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Chairman's Report

Chairman Williams explained the First Selectwoman's goal of bringing together Chairs of Boards and Commissions. Aaron Page attended the September 22 Roundtable discussion for Mr. Williams who was on vacation. Mr. Page reported that the meeting was not about content, but about the process of connecting with other Boards and Commissions.

John Williams led a discussion about private versus public meetings. The Chairman supported, and the Commission concurred, that meetings such as the one attended by Mr. Page would be the most beneficial if the public was invited to attend and share their comments and concerns. The leaders could then include these issues in their discussions.

The Chairman reported that Susan Hotkowski would not be seeking a reappointment to the Commission when her term expires on November 1, 2016.

The Library Planning Committee representative from the Park and Recreation Commission, Aaron Page, gave an update. He reported that the Library Building Committee passed a \$7.4 million library construction and redevelopment of North Quarter Park plan. This resolution has been recommended to the Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Finance. Aaron Page reported that Pat Holloway, from the Library Board, will lead a fundraising initiative for the project. He reported that the projected start date of the project is early to mid-2018.

Mr. Williams informed the Commission about Mrs. Holloway's report linking the library and the surrounding park. The attendees expressed support for the project and incorporating recreation in the fund raising piece of the plan.

The members felt that the best way to gain public support for the library project was for the Park and Recreation Commission to join in a unified approach with the Library Building Committee. They plan to put into words the recreational items listed in Mrs. Holloway's draft, describing the opportunities that the recreation components offer to the public. Ivey Gianetti commented that incorporating the 100 year anniversary of National Parks may be helpful.

The Chairman reviewed the Park Assessments from May, June, July, August, and September of 2016.

On a motion duly made by Ivey Gianetti and seconded by Deron Grabel it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth A. Netsch
Director