

# WELLESLEY RECREATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

JUNE 8, 2015

### Attending:

Steve Burt, Matthew McKay, Trip Sheehan, Andy Wrobel, Mark Wolfson, Brandon Fitts,  
And Jan Kaseta

TGSC: Tom Ulfelder, Gig Babson, Linda Perlmutter, Ann Marie Gross

BOS: Ellen Gibbs

HS student: Liza Goldberg

### Business:

Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2015

**Motion:** Motion to approve: Andy Wrobel  
**Seconded:** Trip Sheehan  
**Vote:** All in favor

### Surplus Update:

The expected surplus/return to town of about \$110,000.

Brandon Fitts presented a list of items that could be purchased with some of the surplus. They included a new TV, Blu-ray player, a computer monitor, a stereo for Warren programs, a printer for the beach and tablets for the camps. The cost is about \$3,050.

**Motion:** By Mark Wolfson, to go forward with the purchases, not to exceed \$4,000.  
**Seconded:** Matthew McKay  
**Vote:** All in favor

### Community Preservation Act:

Steve Burt, as liaison to the CPC asked for some ideas for projects to present for next year. Andy Wrobel offered the following: weed removal (Benthic barrier), sand leveling in the pond, turf at the multi-purpose field, replace the lights at Hunnewell, a splash pad and replacement of the playground by the tennis courts.

Steve Burt asked that the brainstorming continue at a future meeting.

**Playing Fields Task Force:**

The Commission approved the current member of the PFTF.

**Motion:** By Tripp Sheehan, to accept the current members of the PFTF  
**Seconded:** Andy Wrobel  
**Vote:** All in favor

**Town Government Study Committee:**

Members of the TGSC and the BOS attended the meeting to elicit feedback from the committee's report. Issues and concerns that were brought up by the Recreation Commission included the proposed Town Manager's (TM) authority over the hiring of new Department Heads (DH), the authority of the TM in doing DH reviews, especially when the department has an elected board and the TM's authority over department budgets. The budget issue was discussed at length as Recreation has a unique budget and has felt much pressure to return increasing profits to the town. Recreation Commissioners stressed that they stood behind their mission to bring affordable programs and events to residents, they wanted to be clear that they do not feel that the primary objective of the department is to make money for the town, nor is it to have the department become self supporting. One member of the TGSC said that the Recreation surplus and the projection of that surplus will be a continuing dialog.

Other areas in which the TM would be involved would be the creation of a town-wide strategic plan, including goal setting for the town as a whole and for individual departments. TGSC felt that a TM could address the inconsistencies across departments in terms of how they run. Some Recreation Commissioners felt that they may lose some authority, others thought that this form of government would open the door for them to be more forthright with the person in charge.

TGSC members offered to come back to another meeting to continue discussions, to hear ideas and to get additional feedback.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Kasetta

JK/mw