

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACE AND  
RECREATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting February 8, 2017 6:30 pm  
Town Hall Conference Room**

**Attendees:** Dennis Visconti, Chairman, David Goodberg, Steve Sylvester, Stephen McDonough, James Sarno, Maura Campbell, Cynthia Hemenway,

**Absent Members:** Therese DiBlasi, Jack Bracciotti, Aldo Ursino

**1. RE:** Ice Skating Arena –A Solution to the Arena’s badly needed repairs such as a needed ice floor system; raising the ice time rates is a must; in which it could repay 1.5 bond issued for 30 years has been on hold and may not be needed until a clear precise engineering estimate of the Arena is done. CJL engineering was chosen to do estimate of Arena repairs and examination is supposed to have started today (Feb 8). About \$30k was appropriated for this study. If the inspection results in a cost \$1.5mm, we all need to decide what options we have.

Discussion about how the arena can’t just be for hockey but it’s difficult based on the tight schedule booked for games. The recreation department could utilize time for events. Steve Angelo, rec director, has had that conversation and will solidify that within the next month for time next year to utilize the arena. Louis is open to the rec department having time. The town has dealt with the debt of the Arena for years and shouldn’t be charging a town department in full for time.

**2. RE:** Play Grounds/ Field Permits & Recreation- Steve Angelo Rec. Dir. is planning to meet with Softball organization. Will have utilization of youth soccer on Broadway, having a right to the field to use it.

David Goodberg presented the current draft of the Parks & Rec Directory website which is housed on the Stoneham Rec website. Additional fields to be added were given (Beacon St. and MacArthur); it will forever be a work in progress as the town changes and develops. The page is currently live and David will reach out to have a link added to the Stoneham main website.

<http://www.stonehamrec.com/parksandrecdirectory>

**3. RE:** Golf Courses – Sterling is in a surplus and brought in \$217,246.77 in revenue for Stoneham. Also Food sales are excellent. Money was appropriated and approved for irrigation system (\$50,000).

**4. RE:** Community Compact- The town finished the project of Stoneham's open Space Inventory. And now the final step is the completion of the final analysis of the inventory to be submitted to Division of Local Services of an OSR report and results must be passed in by June 2017 in which will award us MAPC (town wide open space) grants.

Next meeting is February 28, usually 5:30pm to 7pm and then March 28 and we will have a public forum after that. A 5-year plan and wish list are vital to receiving grants. The more on the wish list the more potential there is for funds. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come to the next meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

There is a June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for grants and important to have pre-approval early. Approval process from the state is relatively quick.

**5. RE:** Dog Park- The Dog Park can be funded by Grants but we must apply for them with the help from the T.A after location is settled with senior Center and Youth Soccer, also needed is the approval for water use and DPH help. Dimensions are not proposed yet and we need to find someone who has designed dog parks. Once we have a proposal grants can be applied for. Stanton foundation requires you to be a 501C3, which is not something that will likely happen in this case.

The social aspect was discussed of the dog park. Seniors enjoy dog parks; in Melrose its popular with seniors, who come by just to relax. This will be a social outlet if next to the senior center and will allow kids to enjoy the dogs while at the field for soccer games and would allow families to bring their dogs along to these events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Submitted by David Goodberg