

Park and Recreation Commission	<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Date: April 13, 2021**

**Place: Zoom Webinar**

**Commissioners Attending:** John Bain, Nancy O'Connor, Clara Batchelor, Wendy Sheridan, Antonia Bellalta, Dan Lyons and Jim Carroll

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Staff:** Erin Gallentine: Commissioner of Public Works, Alexandra Vecchio: Director of Parks and Open Space, Leigh Jackson: Recreation Director, Jessica White: Parks and Open Space Assistant

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
<p><b>Chairman's Welcome/Approval of the Minutes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Bain opened the meeting.</li> <li>• N. O'Connor stated that she wanted to remind Commissioners to read the minutes, look at them carefully and make sure what he or she is trying to state is said correctly.</li> <li>• N. O'Connor moved for approval of the March 9, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Seconded by J. Carroll. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</li> <li>• W. Sheridan moved for approval of March 18, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Seconded by A. Bellalta. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</li> <li>• N. O'Connor moved for approval of March 24, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. J. Bain and A. Bellalta abstained.</li> <li>• N. O'Connor for approval of March 25, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Seconded by J. Carroll. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</li> <li>• D. Lyons moved for approval of April 5, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Seconded by Sheridan. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. N. O'Connor wants to make sure the minutes have the memo that L. Jackson read out loud regarding the Golf Course Concession Vendor Contract. N. O'Connor stated she would like her statement "Can I clarify something about the letters that Leigh received? I'd be curious, that in terms of the description of the process and the way that legal and Dave Geanakakis described and your lengthy letter Leigh, it doesn't sound like letters</li> </ul>	

	<p>of this nature would be part of a decision of an unbiased panel. I just wanted to say that that's my sense, to be clear" added to the minutes.</p>	
<p><b>Parks and Open Space Update</b></p>	<p><b>Larz Anderson Lagoon Construction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction is well underway at the lagoon area. The Footbridge and Causeway structures have been completely removed, and preliminary work is beginning at the Footbridge to start reconstruction. The Tempietto is still present and removal is anticipated next month. The town and its consultant team are working with the contractor on concrete colors and textures to match the original work.</li> <li>• Work within the lagoon itself has also started, with the sediment from the bottom pushed up into piles along the various edges. This work was performed to restore the original depth of the lagoon by excavating some of the accumulated sediment back down to the original clay liner. This sediment will stay piled for about a month while it de-waters.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cypress Playground Construction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After kicking off last month, Cypress Street playground is under full construction. The site is fully enclosed by a temporary chain link fence. All trees slated for removal have been removed, with the exception of a few smaller trees still on site, slated to be dug for transplant.</li> <li>• The end of the park nearest the high school is fenced off from construction through the end of June 2021, to allow the High School outdoor space as they return to school. Currently, there are four tents set up in that space for use by the high school community now that all students are back. A. Bellalta thinks the high school in relationship to the field looks great. She stated that it is sad to see the big trees come down and discussed the tree that came down with the storm A. Bellalta and A. Vecchio discussed the tree replanting at Cypress. A. Vecchio stated that in Brookline there is an old and established</li> </ul>	

	<p>urban forest tree canopy, so to bring in some newer younger species will help diversify that area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highlights of the current work include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Removal of existing site features including pavements, playground, bleachers, basketball hoops, splash pad, and some of the existing site fencing</li><li>-Removal of existing field grass and topsoil; being stockpiled for re-use in the sledding hill area of the site</li></ul></li><li>• These field stripping operations will continue this month as the contractor prepares the new natural turf field area for sub surface drainage work</li></ul> <p>Spring Tree Planting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spring tree planting is underway! There are over 250 trees to plant across the Town including Red Maple, Pin Oak, American Elm, Ginkgo, and many more.</li><li>• C. Batchelor discussed the flyer she received dispersed by the Greenspace Alliance advertising tree plantings back of sidewalk program. A. Vecchio stated that we are looking to expand people's understanding of the back of sidewalk tree planting program. It allows for the tree to grow larger than the space between the sidewalk and the street.</li><li>• A. Bellalta and A. Vecchio discussed the list of tree planting requests that is really dispersed all over town. This list is made up of requests, trees lost in storm damage and wind events and areas where there is a need for younger trees,</li></ul> <p>Reminder: Dates for Town Meeting May 19, 20, 25, and 27</p> <p>Feedback on Larz Anderson Park wood chip path:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A. Vecchio discussed from where the idea for the wood chip path came and its current location.</li><li>• A. Vecchio stated that several attendees were able to walk path wood chip path around Larz Anderson Park and she would appreciate any feedback on that path and what they do or do not like about it in its current form.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• W. Sheridan stated that feels like the need and desire is there and will actually be used, but aesthetically it doesn't feel right to her around Goddard. She stated that you have this gorgeous rolling hillside to the road and suddenly there is this very visible path that disrupts the visual for her personally. She stated that if we want/ need a path she is comfortable with that, but she would love to try to find a material that disappears a little more from your vision.</li><li>• A. Bellalta wonders how much that path is currently used since it is there and wonders if it requires having a path there. She thinks the arboretum and that path are very different types of landscapes. She thinks the path in the arboretum nestles though different plantings and the path at Larz is very visual. She thinks if it's needed or wanted to loop around, she would encourage a different material. She thinks the one there is very uneven. She would like to make it more handicap accessible. She thinks a darker color will recedes more into the landscape. She thinks it needs to be graded and wants to make sure it is needed.</li><li>• A. Swain stated that the Pedestrian Advisory Committee is focused on sidewalk obstructions and quality. Are new trees to be planted in tree lawns or back-of-the-sidewalk, selected for root "habit" to avoid tree heaves? Or, is there a way to plant them that discourages undermining the sidewalk? A. Vecchio knows that the sidewalk obstructions are something that the Town is focused on helping to enforce so that people are in compliance; any of the tree planting back of sidewalk are preferred by the town due to being better able to space out and manage the distance for a clear path.</li><li>• A. Swain stated that for paths, maybe permeable asphalt, which has a more interesting texture and helps infiltrate storm water and thereby discourage runoff?</li><li>• J. Bain goes by Larz Anderson Park a lot and he sees a lot of people walking on the chips. He thinks asphalt would ruin the area. He could see stone dust there, but likes the look now.</li><li>• C. Batchelor agrees with J. Bain. She has</li></ul>	
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	<p>walked the path many times. She thinks the color is too light and it could be top dressed with a dark brown or black mulch. This would blend and not be visible. This path allows you to do a circular route at Larz and keeps you from having to walk along Goddard avenue sidewalk. She would like to encourage the Parks and Open Space Division to keep that path, darken it so it doesn't stand out as much and by adding an inch and a half of park pine mulch: dark brown or black.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A. Vecchio stated that we do not have any data on the usage of the path, but she sees it getting use.</li><li>• D. Lyons thinks it gets a lot of use. He thinks it's important for athletics/community to have this path. He agrees with everyone's comments that it should be darker. He thinks it's a great layout for it.</li><li>• N. O'Connor thinks that having the path expands park usage and it encourages people to go around the path. She thinks if it's not there you won't see people walking the perimeter and it encourages visitors to use space that has never been used before in a different way. She thinks that when we took the corner from Avon to Goddard, it looked messy, the color does jump out and it was not easy to walk on. She thinks it is rough to roll a wheelchair on, so if we are looking to make an experience for everyone she thinks we need something everyone can use. She is curious what the arboretum uses for the surface. A. Vecchio stated that the arboretum path is in the woods and is the same material that was used at Larz.</li><li>• W. Sheridan thinks it's a little too pronounced. She doesn't have a problem with the path itself, but rather the choice of material or coloration of it.</li><li>• A. Bellalta thinks if you are going to do that path, you might consider smaller chips to make it friendlier to walk or roll on and thinks a little bit of grading would be helpful to make it feel like it is meant to be there.</li><li>• J. Carroll stated that when we are talking about doing intentional grading and looking at rolling wheelchairs over this path, we are getting into</li></ul>	
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	<p>making it a truly accessible path. He thinks it would be involved and expensive. C. Batchelor stated it was done very inexpensively with volunteer labor. She thinks a long term plan in the future could be stabilized stone dust and graded it. She stated that for now she would vote to keep it and darken the path by adding mulch or get rid of it. A. Bellalta totally agrees with C. Batchelor, but in the future we need to be careful with putting things down that are not for all public use. She thinks we are cutting ourselves short. She thinks to be careful moving forward. D. Lyons agrees to darken it and keep an eye to the future to make it accessible to all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N. O’Connor stated that in terms of this situation we are in, it was a great thing to do and it was done during COVID-19. It was a project to get people out, it was a great idea and well-used. She stated that we have learned from this and there is room for improvement.</li> <li>• A. Swain stated that “Yes, I know inclusion has been a priority of Erin's for our parks. My son, who now uses a manual wheelchair, rolled up and down Mt Greylock this weekend, but he'd get mired in wood chips or mulch.”</li> <li>• A. Vecchio stated that there is no vote tonight. She will take the feedback and bring it back to her staff. .</li> <li>• A.Swain stated that Just FYI, the UNH Stormwater Center <a href="https://www.unh.edu/unhsc/">https://www.unh.edu/unhsc/</a> has lots of reliable, tested info on porous surface treatments. One on porous pavement: <a href="https://www.unh.edu/unhsc/sites/unh.edu.unhsc/files/porous_ashpalt_fact_sheet.pdf">https://www.unh.edu/unhsc/sites/unh.edu.unhsc/files/porous_ashpalt_fact_sheet.pdf</a> and there's another on winter maintenance for it.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Green Dog Subcommittee and FAQ’s Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Subcommittee met on March 22, 2021 for 1 hour and had over 75 public participants</li> </ul> <p>Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration, compliance issues</li> <li>• Brief overview of Friends of Green Dog Program</li> <li>• Review of “Green Dog Program</li> </ul>	

	<p>Recommended Improvements Memo” submitted by North Brookline residents. This had over 70 signatures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open comments, observations, or recommendations</li> <li>• It was a well-attended meeting and will require a lot more conversations</li> </ul> <p>Green Dog additional FAQ’s- A. Vecchio and A. Cassie are looking to add to the website.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why do I need to pay a fee for the Green Dog Program? She stated that this is about breaking down a transparency for what this money goes towards and why there is a fee for this program.</li> <li>2. Why are the parks not fenced-in, with double gates for the dogs’ safety? This comes back to the mission of Green Dog: it is meant for multiple users to enjoy the green spaces.</li> <li>3. If no one else is using the park, why is having off-leash time outside of established hours a problem? 97%-98% of people are doing the right things and that 2 % pushes back.</li> <li>4. Can the seasonal field closures be rotated so that there is not such a long closure period? This is a struggle for all users. She knows it’s a challenge and this is continually looked at through the updated athletic field master plan and turf management plan.</li> <li>5. Why is the field closure information not more up-to-date? The team does the best they can, there is a short window and this will be looked at to see if there are better ways to improve communication.</li> <li>6. Why don’t the park crews time their maintenance for outside of Green Dog hours? Crews try hard to do this, but there is not enough flexibility in the day to avoid being there in the morning hours. This is something constantly talked about with crews.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N. O’Connor stated that when this program started it was all about education and its reminding people of where we have come from and understanding why you can’t rotate field closures. N. O’Connor discussed the damage that happens to wet fields when people ignore the field closed signs. It is a very real problem. She thinks we need to be protecting our</li> </ul>	
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	<p>investments and the money put into these fields. She thinks we need to get back to education /reeducation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Swain stated that the Green Dog Program Field Closures Calendar email notification system is working really well nowadays-- timely and specific info.</li> <li>• L. Jackson stated that we have alert system for closing fields and she is happy to do a campaign to push that out again through social. A. Vecchio agrees that education is important. She likes the idea of getting more knowledge out there about the education channels that exist.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Green Dog Subcommittee Structure and Meeting Frequency Discussion and Vote</b></p>	<p>Subcommittee Structure and Meeting Frequency</p> <p>Current:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting Schedule: Quarterly – 1 hour</li> <li>• Staff: Green Dog Program Manager (Alex) &amp; Director Parks &amp; Open Space (Alexandra)</li> <li>• Commissioners: 4</li> <li>• Public: 5             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community – minded dog owners who use Green Dog Areas daily.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting Schedule: Every other month – 90 minutes. Helps shape the agenda and allow for public feedback and comments.</li> <li>• Staff: Remains the same</li> <li>• Commissioners: 3-4</li> <li>• Public: 4-5             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletic Field User</li> <li>• Friends of Green Dog</li> <li>• North Brookline Green Dog Owner</li> <li>• General Park User</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W. Sheridan fully supports the new structure. She thinks it’s productive the way it is but in particular, having 4-5 more diverse users is very important. She thinks there are certain nuisances that could be missed by the current structure and gave an example.</li> <li>• J. Bain likes the new proposal. He is wondering what time of says these meeting will take</li> </ul>	<p>J. Bain moves to accept the proposed changes to the Green Dog Subcommittee Structure and meeting schedule. Seconded by N. O’Connor. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</p>

	<p>place. J. Bain stated that day meetings can affect those that may have conflicting engagements. A. Vecchio felt like timing could be revised as progression occurs and she is open on to direction on the time of the day meetings from the Commission. W. Sheridan thought you could rotate between day and night meetings. L. Jackson stated that lunch meetings have been successful for her. She would like to assign someone from Recreation to the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. Batchelor stated that the reorganization looks good to her and agrees that the general park user’s addition is great.</li> <li>• N. O’Connor stated that adding general park users is important and one things that has been missing was general/athletic field users. She thinks having them at the table will be super helpful. She thinks to mix up the meeting times will be helpful.</li> <li>• A. Swain stated “I can't even count the number of times I've had to explain to adults the basics of how grass grows... and doesn't. And a lot of people don't know about the Calendar, so I tell them. Can we automatically sign up Green Dog participants for the Calendar, if we warn them that's a condition of having the license? They can always unsubscribe” .</li> </ul> <p>Key Takeaways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider pilot projects regarding space usage and hours</li> <li>• Review field closure notification protocol</li> <li>• Increase overall communication to all field users</li> <li>• Make registration instructions more accessible</li> <li>• Next Meeting: May TBD</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Bain moves to accept the proposed changes to the Green Dog Subcommittee Structure and meeting schedule. Seconded by N. O’Connor. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</li> </ul>	
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**Updated Parks Gift and Donation Guidelines for Discussion, Review and Vote**

- A. Vecchio provided the Commission with an updated version of the Parks Gifts and Donations Guidelines. E. Gallentine has updated this policy so it is reflective of gift giving across all of the DPW. The previous guidelines only applied to Parks and Open Space Division and were last updated in 2012.
- A. Vecchio went through suggested changes within the guidelines. A. Vecchio stated that one area that jumped out at her was the section under types of gifts and donations. She stated that we have added a couple of special accounts where gifts can be made and donated. These accounts were listed. She stated that under Preserve an Open Space or Adopt a Park, this has been considered and discussed before, but this will be revisited with the goals to find the right balance. She thinks we need to think about the signage and how we would designate those spaces. E. Gallentine and A. Vecchio feel that additional support is needed for some of these smaller spaces.
- A. Vecchio will be the point of contact and if she receives something that does not fall under the Parks and Open Space Division, then she will redirect to the correct division.
- N. O'Connor thinks it looks great. She has some grammatical changes she can talk about separately. She read aloud her suggested word changes/grammatical changes and will email them to A. Vecchio.
- E. Gallentine discussed the donation bench waiting list for the Brookline Reservoir.
- J. Bain asked if there is an expiration date on the any benches. E. Gallentine stated that it is not in perpetuity, it's good for the lifetime of the bench with an estimated time of 10 years but they do last longer. The intent is to know it is not forever and it is not the responsibility of the town to replace it or seek out former donors. It is a gift/transaction accepted at a point in time. She stated that it is a lot of work to find the right place for these donations. She stated that we have not removed any benches put out there as donor benches.
- E. Gallentine stated that most of this in terms

	<p>of content is the same, but several years ago the Commission did update the gift level for benches, flagship parks and trees. Those numbers have been updated, but in terms of language for parks and how gifts are processed is largely the same and saw this as an opportunity to have consistency across departments. A. Vecchio stated that we have received a lot of inquires about benches and trees, and thinks its wonderful people want to give back - more opportunities we can find for individual/foundation gift would be really very beneficial. She thinks it is important to have this updated policy and make people aware of it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair moved to approve the Updated Parks Gift and Donation Guidelines as presented here tonight. Seconded by J. Carroll. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Skating Rink RFP Update and Discussion of RFP Selection Committee- Vote on Members of Ice Rink Feasibility Study Selection Committee</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Vecchio stated that the ice rink feasibility study RFP is out and open for bid. Those proposals are due by April 21, 2021. There is then a week to review those proposals followed by evaluations and interviews conducted on April 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated that we are hoping to award and execute that contract between May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the feasibility study to determine the different options for where this ice rink could go and how would it be designed. This is not making any decision about the actual placement of that rink.</li> <li>• W. Sheridan, Chair of the task force, stated that she would like to make a recommendation for the selection committee for the RFP of feasibility Study to the Commission. She recommended herself, A. Vecchio, E. Gallentine, S. Landgren, T. Radicioni, and one member of the public who also serves on on the skating rink task force, Albi Urbas. Additionally there were three commissioners who expressed interest in serving: N. O'Connor, A. Bellalta and J. Carroll. She has spoken to all three and N. O'Connor and J. Carroll are interested and available to serve. A. Bellalta, although interested, was willing to step back to keep the number on the selection committee at 8. The total number is 8, and if</li> </ul>	<p>J. Bain moved to accept the recommendation by W. Sheridan for the Members of Ice Rink Feasibility Study Selection Committee presented here tonight. Seconded by D Lyons. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</p>

	<p>for any reason there is a split decision either W. Sheridan or E. Gallentine would abstain to break the tie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Bain moved to accept the recommendation by W. Sheridan for the Members of Ice Rink Feasibility Study Selection Committee presented here tonight. Seconded by D Lyons. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Two Letters to the Commission in regards to Residency for Town Owned Athletic Field and Court Policy, Brookline Soccer Club and Brookline Youth Baseball</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission was presented with two letters in regards to Residency for Town Owned Athletic Field and Court Policy, Brookline Soccer Club and Brookline Youth Baseball.</li> <li>• L. Jackson stated that about a year and a half ago the Commission put together a subcommittee to study and update the Athletic Field Allocation Policy and that was done quite successfully. She stated that this spring season for the sports programs, Recreation received two letters in regards to exemptions for the policy. She stated that the subcommittee anticipated that might receive exception letters due to nature of sports programs and the nature of how friendships are formed and how people who move. This, in fact, has happened and these instances in the new policy are to be brought before the Park and Recreation Commission. L. Jackson detailed both letters sent to her, one from Brookline Youth Baseball that recognizes two individuals to be considered and the other from Brookline Soccer Club that identified three players to be considered for the residency requirements. There is a 100 percent residency, but they did allow for the exemptions to move forward. L. Jackson would like feedback. She decided to permit them as priority one residents given the situations in the letter.</li> <li>• W. Sheridan thinks a motion to approve is in order. W. Sheridan stated that in reading the letters it is very clear. She stated that Brookline Soccer Club is a great partner, serves thousands of youths and typically someone is placed on a team and you play a fall season and spring season. It is clear to her that 3 out of 500 plus students played fall and moved before spring and are requesting to stay on the team with</li> </ul>	

	<p>priority one access. She would move to accept L. Jackson’s motion to proceed with the exceptions and allow these two groups to remain in priority one level. C. Batchelor has a question. She wonders about the baseball request regarding the two people who have moved permanently, she wonders why they should remain on the team. W. Sheridan stated that similar to the soccer club it is such a small percentage of the overall numbers and they have been part of a Brookline team as long-standing members of the program, and it is difficult this season to say that you can’t participate because there was a change in policy. She thinks in the next go-round for permitting we may receive another similar letter or these children may be settled in another town’s program. C. Batchelor doesn’t have a strong feeling one way or another, but fears that in the future there maybe too many children wanting the exception. She thinks looking ahead it should be looked at every year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● N. O’Connor stated that when we had multiple meetings around policy, the group was very adamant that it should be 100 percent residency. However, she stated that she kept pushing the point that these situations happen and she does approve it. She wanted to point that that priority one is Park and Recreation programs and schools, priority two is youth groups and adult sports organization. She believes this is priority two. She thinks it’s something she saw coming and would say to C. Batchelor’s point that there should be language, for another night, that says “at the director’s discretion.” Or do we want every season to have sports programs come before the Commission?</li><li>● W. Sheridan moved to accept L. Jackson’s recommendation that the Commission approve Brookline Youth Baseball and Brookline Soccer Club’s request to remain in priority two status. Seconded by J. Bain. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</li><li>● J. Bain, N. O’Connor and W. Sheridan discussed reconvening the Policy</li></ul>	
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	<p>Subcommittee to add possible suggested language and look at the fee structure.</p>	
<p><b>Other Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● J. Carroll was looking for a status update on the food vendor at the golf course. L. Jackson stated that we have 4/15 as the opening season date: that is when the current vendor is to transition out of the club house and when the new vendor will transition in. She stated that everyone is geared up to make that happen as smoothly as possible. The new contract was signed last week.</li> <li>● E. Gallentine discussed reintroducing public comment into the Commission’s meeting. She stated that it is a very important piece and will be added to agenda moving forward.</li> <li>● E. Gallentine stated that she would like the Commission to think about the diversity on the Commission and really think about the makeup of the Commission. She thinks the Commission needs to be thinking about succession and planning and trying to become a more diverse board. She thinks there are several ways to do that. She stated that one is certainly with broad terms and thinking about those positions, but she thinks the Commission could revisit associate commissioners and also youth. E. Gallentine stated that she knows that this is something that A. Vecchio is very excited about and would help take a leadership role as well. E. Gallentine stated that an associate Commissioner would be a non-voting member that is in essence is recognized as having a semi-formal role, but they are not an appointed through the Select Board. E. Gallentine stated that it will be developed by the Commission, and she will work with Town Council to get the specifics of this role.</li> <li>● J. Carroll would like to publicly offer to step aside and relinquish his position on the commission if there were someone that was interested to come on the board to create a more diverse membership.</li> <li>● A. Bellalta stated that the Commission is near</li> </ul>	

	<p>and dear to her heart. She is a diverse woman on the team. She thinks it is time for her to step down and leave space for opportunities for other younger people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● N. O'Connor stated that when she was a young mother it was hard to find the time between family and meetings. She agrees with having a diverse board. She thinks this is an opportunity to find the young people in our neighborhoods to find other folks with great opinions and energy.</li><li>● J. Bain stated that he does not plan on re-upping and has enjoyed every minute of it. It has been a rewarding experience and enjoyed meeting all the new people. There are exciting changes coming and he hopes to see young people on-board.</li><li>● W. Sheridan stated that it's sometimes difficult when you haven't volunteered before to know how to navigate not only the process for applying for said board or commission, but also knowing what you are applying for and what the expectations of work/number of hours. She stated that she thought this was a once-a-month meeting and she has loved every minute of it, but stated that it is a bigger commitment than she originally thought. She stated that there are no great guidelines out there for what the expectations might be. She stated that she thinks we need to spend time brainstorming what that outreach looks like. She doesn't think we expect for people to know how and where to go on to the Town's website to find out about/apply about these boards and commissions. She thinks there are avenues to look into for potential outreach.</li><li>● A. Vecchio stated that she is really passionate about a lot of what she is hearing. It is something very important to her personally and is something that she was working on professionally in her previous role to racially diversify her staff and to have age diversification on the climate change committee she served on. There are no magic answers and she is excited to work with everyone to get the right information to increase opportunity and sustainability of youth</li></ul>	
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	<p>presence/voice/participation on the commission/associate members. She thinks there is a great opportunity here and, more broadly, she hopes to help out on how we are communicating, engaging and reaching out to the community and how are they doing the same back to us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● L. Jackson stated that she wants to encourage the participation in a brainstorming session to discuss and clarify roles and responsibilities for commissioners and staff. She wanted to second W. Sheridan’s comments.</li> <li>● J. Bain suggested having an open house to get ideas from the general public, to get idea on what people are looking for from Recreation and Parks and Open Space. He agreed with the Select Board.</li> <li>● W. Sheridan would volunteer to be on a strategizing group.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● C. Batchelor moved to adjourn. Seconded by A. Bellalta. All in favor.</li> </ul>		

**Next Meeting: May 11, 2021**

**Location: Zoom Webinar**

**A true record**

**Attest     Jessica White**

**Date: 4/13/21**