

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
September 5, 2006**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairperson  
Kenneth J. DiFazio  
Thomas J. Lacey  
Arthur E. Mathews  
Gregory Shanahan

Also Present: Councilor Kevin Whitaker  
Jane Hackett, Chief of Staff  
Richard E. Swanson, Town Auditor

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairman Molisse called the Public Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**Update on South Shore Tri-Town Funds Allocated to Park Improvements**

Councilor Molisse stated that he called this evening's meeting as the Mayor's office has announced a major park improvement plan. Under this new plan, the town will spend \$700,000 over the next two years on park and field improvements.

Ms. Hackett stated that the first payment under the Host Community Agreement from LNR was received several months ago. \$700,000 of this payment has been budgeted for park improvements.

Weston and Webb Parks in Weymouth Landing, Gifford Park on Thicket Street in South Weymouth, and Abigail Adams Green on North Street are several of the parks to be improved.

Weston Park and Webb Park have been cleared and de grubbed. Abigail Adams Green is currently out for bid to clear, de grub, and replant that area. Administration is working closely with the Garden Club on this.

Ms. Hackett stated that one of the Mayor's goals is to maintain the appearance of the town as well as to improve the parks in town. He also is looking to focus on the younger aged children's activities; T-ball and early primary schools. There have been recent projects which have targeted the older youth uses.

She noted that specifications were sought in order to properly rebuild and maintain the new fields. Four primary schools were targeted; Seach, Hamilton, Academy Ave, and Murphy schools. The fields were replaced and backstops removed and replaced. The infields were rebuilt. The total cost was \$110,000.

Councilor Mathews asked about the newly purchased piece of equipment. Ms. Hackett stated that it will be used to maintain the grass.

Councilor DiFazio asked if the Mayor would reach out to the East Weymouth Civic Association when planning for Legion Field begins. Ms. Hackett noted that the Mayor has spoken with them on a number of occasions. Once the conceptual plans are in place, the Mayor will seek input. She noted that all are able to contact the Mayor with any thoughts or ideas.

Ms. Hackett noted that \$100,000 has been set aside for Legion Field. This is to continue to the site work. The project has been successful in regards to the settling. She stated that the Mayor has requested an assessment of repairs to the wall along Middle Street. He has also requested an assessment for the demolition of the stands. The Mayor has requested a conceptual plan for both passive and active recreation. She noted that the Mayor has met with the East Weymouth Civic Association. This plan would be a starting point.

Councilor Kay noted that there is an ongoing plan to improve all of the parks in the town. Ms. Hackett noted that Weston Park will receive approximately \$250,000 in upgrades and repairs.

Councilor Kay asked about the ability to use the fields at the former Hunt School. This school was sold and the town retained the ability to use parking spaces for the library and Kid's Landing. Ms. Hackett stated that she did not have an answer about the fields and would review the deed to determine if this can be done.

She stated that Robert O'Connor and Thomas Slattery were available to answer any specific questions.

Councilor Lacey asked if there has been consideration in working with the various leagues who utilize the fields. Ms. Hackett stated that anyone interested in helping out should contact the Mayor's office.

Councilor Molisse asked if there would be a neighborhood meeting regarding Webb Park. Ms. Hackett stated that the future plans are to go out to bid for active/passive design in the amount of about \$10,000. There would be another neighborhood meeting to discuss with the neighbors the proposed use. Construction work is not budgeted in this round of improvements.

Councilor Mathews asked about Brad Hawes Park. Ms. Hackett noted that with Julia Road Park off- line, this park would be made available for North Weymouth teams' usage.

Councilor Mathews asked about the overhang at the park as it has been vandalized over the years. Ms. Hackett noted that this is an item that needs to be addressed. She stated that as they go through the various parks, they are looking at what can be done by volunteers, or in-house.

Gifford Park on Thicket Street in South Weymouth was initially assessed to be in need of a major overhaul. This park has been budgeted at \$44,000. She noted that this park has been virtually unusable due to mosquitoes. Clearing and grubbing will be completed. She noted that the drainage work needed is minimal and can most likely be done in-house. The backstop does not need to be replaced but the benches do. A retaining wall along the third base line will be constructed.

At 7:00pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Mathews to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Shanahan and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Molisse, Chairperson