

Park and Recreation Commission	<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Date:** April 12, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

**Place:** Brookline Town Hall, Room 111

**Commissioners Attending:** John Bain, Nancy O’Connor, Clara Batchelor, Daniel Lyons, Jim Carroll, Antonia Bellalta, Jean Stameris

**Commissioners Absent:** n/a

**Staff:** Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director, Lisa Paradis, Recreation Director, Jessica White, Parks and Open Space Assistant.

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
<b>Chairman’s Welcome Approval of Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J. Bain opened the meeting and welcomed the public. He asked for any comments or corrections on the minutes.</li> </ul>	D. Lyons moved for approval of the March 15, 2016 minutes. Seconded by J. Stameris. All in favor
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Richard Nangle precinct 15 Town Meeting Member addressed the Commission. He wanted to thank the Commission for standing its ground a few months ago. He got to thinking about what the Park and Recreation Commission means and it’s the combination of the Board of Selectman over generations who have chosen people who reflect the culture and the character of the community. He stated that the Commission is speaking for the community and they applaud you and he appreciates that.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recognition of Melissa Battite on receiving the Peter C. O’Brien Humanitarian Award from the MRPA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L. Paradis felt it was a good time to recognize M. Battite for not only for the work that she does in the Recreation Department but also because she has received the highest award given to any park and recreation individual/professional by the MRPA. It is given to those professionals who have demonstrated passion for the field and for the work and effort they have shown with the MRPA. L. Paradis stated that M. Battite is an extraordinary professional, her worth ethic is unmatched and she really does make the Recreation Department what it is. She is the constant professional and serves the Commission and community well for 23 plus years. L. Paradis stated she reinvents herself professionally every few years, she pushes herself to strive to be better, and that she is an incredible mom. L. Paradis feels privileged to</li> </ul>	

	<p>have Melissa on her team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• J. Bain stated that M. Battite is a real asset to this department. He stated she does a remarkable job and he is proud to be part of her team.</li><li>• N. O'Connor stated that she has known M. Battite since the day she walked on the job and she has had the pleasure of seeing her grow and reinvent herself every couple of years. She discussed how both M. Battite and L. Paradis spoke so eloquently last week at the Advisory Committee meeting and their breadth of knowledge was right on. She stated that everything M. Battite has done has been wonderful and she is not the least bit surprised that she has received this award. She thanked M. Battite for everything she has done and does for Brookline.</li><li>• E. Gallentine stated that she admires M. Battite's knowledge and commitment to the profession. She stated that the Humanitarian Award is particular fitting and what strikes her about M. Battite is her commitment to those that are underserved in the community. E. Gallentine is incredibly impressed with everything she has done and will continue to do. She stated that M. Battite does an incredible job with connecting her organization with other organizations. She thinks this award is incredibly well deserved and long overdue.</li><li>• M. Battite thanked everyone. She took this job on a 1 month temporary position; she can't believe that she is still here and feels very fortunate to have landed here for so many reasons. She has made her life here and feels every connected on a personal basis and feels so very fortunate to love what she does. She is grateful for the Town of Brookline that allows her to go across the country and spend her time networking and really digging deep in the industry and trusting her to take that information and deliver it here at home.. She is very humbled and wanted to thank the Commission for recognizing her.</li></ul>	
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**Driving Range  
Construction Update**

- L. Paradis stated that she is here tonight with Horticulturist Bruce Wenning, from the Brookline Country Club, and Mike Murphy the Superintendent at the Robert T. Lynch Golf Course to give the Commission a construction update on the driving range.
- She also wanted to address some of the concerns that people are having with the frontage of the driving range at this point of construction. She stated that she knew this was going to happen and that it is difficult to see the grounds in their current condition, with no topsoil, no grass/green.
- E. Gallentine agreed and reminded the Commission of the negative public opinion that they needed to respond to regarding tree removal and appearance for both the Fisher Hill Reservoir Park construction and Hall's Pond renovation.
- L. Paradis showed an outline of the golf course to the Commission. She showed pictures of the area pre construction and post construction. She knows that it does look stark and one of the biggest things that people see now are the poles.
- The planting plan was shown to the Commission. It is a basic planting plan. She passed out sheets to the Commissioners of what all the vegetation will look like and why those plants were chosen for this area. She wanted to point out that there is a lot of ledge and not a lot will grow and thrive in that area.
- B. Wenning addressed the Commission. He is here tonight to go over the 4 types of evergreen trees that he is suggesting for the golf course that consist of the White Fir, the Norway Spruce, the Japanese Fir and the Arborvitae. He stated that Norway spruce is very common to have at a country club, they are a very good screen, they grow tall and can be used for a wind screen. The arborvitae is good for clay soil, ledge and constricted root zones. The Norway Spruces are really great looking they give an enchanting look, but they get very big. His opinion with Arborvitae is not to mix them in with a contrasting kind of growth pattern such

	<p>a Norway Spruce. He stated that the Japanese Yew is heat resistant but it grows slow. He showed where the Japanese Yews would be placed. He gave some background into the Eastern Hemlock. He stated that White Fir grows together nicely with the Norway Spruce. They mix together very well; they have the same growth habitat and work fine with bright sunny areas. They are used a lot on golf courses . The White Pine was discussed as more of hazard in high wind. He stated that we noticed trees that grow in ledges can topple over many years later because of restricted root zone. They have a broad root zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• .</li><li>• He went through some of the pros and cons of the Arborvitae, White Fir, the Norway Spruce, the Japanese Fir and the Arborvitae.</li><li>• L. Paradis showed a few pictures of what the fill-ins would look like. The work will be done in house by Superintendent Mike Murphy.</li><li>• L. Paradis stated that we wouldn't have picked Arborvitae and the Norway spruce if we had the ability to have a slow grow in. L. Paradis stated that we are trying to balance what the neighbors and citizens want in terms of immediate screening, with what we would feel is appropriate and what is aesthetically pleasing.</li><li>• L. Paradis stated that a more diverse planting plan will take some time to have an impact.</li><li>• A. Bellalta is wondering if you could balance planting with more Norway Spruce and less arborvitae. She wants it to look natural. She thinks that with arborvitae you look like you are trying to hide something rather than creating a scenic entrance that should merge with the environment. She personally always has a thing about arborvitae in a straight line that to her is saying you are hiding something and it's not natural. She would worry that L. Paradis would get comments about how unnatural it looks. She would not put them in a line. They discussed rhododendrons. C. Batchelor agrees with A. Bellalta. N. O'Connor hears what A. Bellalta is saying. She thinks for</li></ul>	
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	<p>what is there now and what you are hearing people you are doing what you think is the best option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E. Gallentine wanted to thank B. Wenning for the information and expertise that he provided pertaining to the various planting options. She agreed that the Arborvitae does not go well with Norway spruce and doesn't go with anything typically other than itself and is used often as a residential hedge in tight areas. She thinks you have invested a significant amount of money to make the driving range happen and she thinks the Park and Recreation Commission needs to stand strong behind L. Paradis and her plan. The arborvitae actually attracts more attention and will not address the issue of providing an attractive green buffer for the entrance to the golf course.</li><li>• C. Batchelor asked L. Paradis if the Arborvitae have been purchased already and L. Paradis responded with a no. C. Batchelor suggested using the firs and spruces that L. Paradis likes and not planting in a row but in a cluster. It would help with the natural look.</li><li>• .</li><li>• L. Paradis stated that she can't fight this fight on her own. E. Gallentine stated that the Commission needs to be up front. It needs to be explained that this is a long term vision. The planting will take time to grow in and have a real impact on the entrance, however if it is the right plan it can be explained.</li><li>• Mike Murphy stated that once they finish the grade and soften the slopes we will move in then. He is hoping beginning of June we can plant and keep them watered. He stated that in terms of the Arborvitae, it was the idea of getting something green up quickly and blocking the view that everyone has the issue with. The thought was to get it established and then we could come up with a better planting plan. C. Batchelor thinks that if we have an overall good plan and show the community it, they would be ok with that.</li><li>• N. O'Connor requested a master planting plan that we can get started on and we can phase in</li></ul>	
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	<p>as the driving range is making money. L. Paradis stated that we can do that, she doesn't have funds to do that right now but she has an original plan we could go back to. N. O'Connor suggested having a nice plan on easel at the club house so you can see a time line of what will happen. L. Paradis suggested showing a phased project. N. O'Connor asked if the Design Review Committee can look at the planting list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● L. Paradis feels strongly about having a finished grade and the Tee Boxes set first, to see where those are needed to be located before any planting is done at all.</li> <li>● She is relieved that the Commission is saying all this. Although she has not had any negative feedback directly, she felt that she had to get something out there because of the feedback she is getting from the commission regarding what they anticipate the community reaction to be.. L. Paradis will bring back the original planting plan to the next Park and Recreation meeting.</li> <li>● The topography of the golf course was discussed</li> <li>● L. Paradis stated that the nets will go up last.</li> <li>● J. Bain and M Murphy discussed the first hole. J. Bain thinks you did a great job and doesn't want to be hasty with the planting plan. He thinks it will work out fine.</li> <li>● J. Stameris thinks it will look good and she is excited about it.</li> <li>● A potential seating area while people wait was discussed. L. Paradis discussed bench seating.</li> <li>● There was talk about cameras being put up, there have been a lot of car break ins up there.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Recreation Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● L. Paradis is excited to announce that Brookline Recreation has been awarded \$27,000 for the 2016-2017 from the NRPA and Walmart Foundation. It is a 5 year initiative designed to create education and awareness about healthy eating to kids when they are out of school time.</li> <li>● L. Paradis wanted to thank the Park School who invited Recreation to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade internship program.</li> <li>● The Brookline Youth Fund of the Brookline Community Foundation has awarded the</li> </ul>	

	<p>Summer Day Camp program and collaboration with the Brookline Mental Health Center \$10,000. She discussed the decline of the amount of the grant over the years. She stated that we impact hundreds of families and this cuts a hole in that impact and we will have to limit the amount of families that we serve. L. Paradis discussed the background of funding the granny through a golf tournament at The Country Club. She discussed a potential fundraising effort so we have our own scholarship fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● L. Paradis discussed the phased work that will be done to the aquatics center. L. Paradis and N. O'Connor discussed the changes that will happen to the locker rooms.</li> <li>● Climate action week was last week.</li> <li>● The play it forward program was discussed and L. Paradis sees doing the program a lot differently next year</li> <li>● Recreation is heavy into employment and volunteers.</li> <li>● In Environmental Ed. they did the annual maple sugaring day with 3 sessions and 80 people on a beautiful day at Larz. The Steps to Success grant and partnership continues to go well, they made a trip to the Arnold Arboretum this month. L. Paradis discussed the start of the preschool nature series</li> <li>● Friday, April 25, is the Recreation Therapy Dance at BHS</li> <li>● Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> is the Couch to 5k starts up</li> <li>● Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> is when Brookline will host the Special Olympics Swim Meet</li> <li>● Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> is the lunch and learn/Women and girls thriving initiative</li> <li>● Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> is the Tee off at the library</li> <li>● N. O'Connor discussed the Special Olympics basketball event her family attended.</li> <li>● Brookline Day will take place September 18<sup>th</sup>. L. Paradis discussed the marketing and sponsors.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Larz Anderson Design Review Presentation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● E. Gallentine stated that the Larz Anderson Design Review Committee has completed their work and made a recommendation specifically for the roadway, parking, circulation</li> </ul>	<p>The Chair moves to approve the Larz Anderson Park Roadway, Parking</p>

	<p>improvements for Larz Anderson Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● KMDG is the Landscape Architectural team working with the Town on Larz Anderson and picking up where Vic Walker left off. KMDG is respectful of the site and have the right balance of expertise to carry out the work.</li> <li>● E. Gallentine went through the original configuration of the roadway.</li> <li>● The phase one scope will rehabilitate the roadway, pedestrian circulation, safe crossings, drainage and parking up to the parking lot by the skating rink to work within the \$540,00 budget. Phase two will continue from that point to the exit onto Avon Street.</li> <li>● The DRC meeting summary consisted of :a presentation of 3 options with variations on: direction of travel, parking lot configurations, roadside parking configurations and path alignments.</li> <li>● E. Gallentine stated that there was unanimous agreement amongst the committee on a one way road system and narrower roadway, agreement on no drop off zone at the rink, agreement that existing views to the museum are important, agreement on parallel parking on downhill side to Avon Street and an agreement to look at parking options including expansion of existing lots and additional parallel parking.</li> <li>● Right now at Larz the width of the road goes to 18-24 feet. She showed existing vehicular circulation and what is actually happening up there. We are looking to go to a 14 foot wide road with a 2 foot shoulder on either side. The roadway will be a total of 18 feet wide up to the Auto Museum and it will remain a one way.</li> <li>● E. Gallentine presented the Park and Recreation Commission with the presentation that was given to the DRC by K. Martin from KMDG , that consisted of the existing and proposed conditions. The presentation is attached. The following options were shown to the Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Option 1:</b> is using angled parking with 10 parallel spots.</li> <li>● <b>Option 1a:</b> proposed angled rink and hill</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>and Circulation Design and Phasing Plan as presented and recommended by the Larz Anderson Design Review Committee, and request that the Park and Open Space Division move the project into final design and construction bid and makes changes as necessary to support the design intent of the concept plan and the overall goals of the Town. Seconded by J. Carroll. All in favor.</p>
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	<p>parking. In summary there are officially 90 spaces in the scope, 13 at museum, 47 in the lot by rink, 18 at the top of hill ( that is not changing) and 12 on downward side of Avon current (current condition). Option 1 with angled parking results in 103 spaces, 10 at the museum, 59 by the rink, and same 18 at the top of the hill and on downhill side 16 spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Option 2:</b> looks at perpendicular parking. The existing parking is 90 spaces. Option one has 103 and option 2 with the perpendicular we are able to get to 111 spaces, 13 by the museum, 64 at the rink, 18 at top of hill (not changing) and 16 coming down the hill.</li><li>• Angled parking was favored by the Design Review Committee. Safety was a top priority .</li></ul> <p>The DRC decided upon</p> <p><b>Phase 1</b> Mobilization 30,000 Roadway 480,000 Drainage 25,000 <b>Total 535,000</b></p> <p><b>Phase 2</b> Beyond Rink 285,00 Pedestrian Path (down hill) 38,00 Lighting 150,000 <b>Total 470,000</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neil Hefferon addressed the Commission. He lives next to the park. He thinks all this is good, however he did notice the museum may lose spaces for the shows along the access drive. E. Gallentine stated that the plan will still allow the temporary parking along the great lawn. E. Gallentine stated that the only thing that will be different is the 3 spots by the Putterham School and that E. Gallentine pointed to on the map. E. Gallentine and N. Hefferon discussed parking for the car shows and sledding. They discussed erosion control.</li><li>• J. Bain stated that this park is a jewel and it needs to be protected.</li><li>• The funding for Phase 2 was discussed.</li><li>• The Chair moves to approve the Larz Anderson Park Roadway, Parking and Circulation Design</li></ul>	
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	<p>and Phasing as presented and recommended by the Larz Anderson Design Review Committee, and request that the Park and Open Space Division move the project into final design and construction bid and makes changes as necessary to support the design intent of the concept plan and the overall goals of the Town. Seconded by J. Carroll. All in favor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E. Gallentine discussed the construction time line.</li> <li>• E. Gallentine went through the Master Plan for Larz Anderson, the phase 2 scope pictures of that scope, phase 3 scope and current pictures of that scope and a future grant/future phase.</li> <li>• The money in the CIP for the phases was discussed.</li> <li>• Ariel Hefferon addressed the Commission. She would like to see a basketball court up at the rink. She likes the idea of when the skating season is finished to lay temporary surfacing down for other sports.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Brookline Avenue Playground Design Review Presentation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission has already voted on the Brookline Avenue playground concept. There were some problems with how the plan was laid out and obstructions in the plan.</li> <li>• She showed the Commission where the Design Review Committee started.</li> <li>• The amended plan was presented to the Commission. E. Gallentine walked the commission through the park as it will be redesigned. E. Gallentine discussed a few of the things that have changed from the original plan due to an existing athletic field light post that must remain in place. She stated that what we decided on is to keep the approach from Brookline Ave into the playground and move some of the picnic furniture outside of the fence areas. The revised plan realigns the path to the playground, redefines the entrance with seating and bike racks and provides a new alignment of the playground fence that works around the light station. . All of the elements of the original plan are provided in the revision and the light station is outside of the play area. E. Gallentine showed where some of the play elements were re-organized to accomplish this.</li> </ul>	<p>N. O'Connor moved to approve the Amendments to the Brookline Avenue Renovation Plan as presented and recommended by Erin Gallentine, Director of the Parks and Open Space Division, and request that the Park and Open Space Division move the project into final design and construction bid documents, and make any changes as necessary to support the design intent of the concept plan and the overall goals of the Town. Seconded</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pictures of the play equipment/elements were shown. The add alternates are as followed:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alternative #1 – Expanded Play Area next to Camp Site – Estimated at \$139,885</li> <li>2. Alternative #2 – Musical Stage Play Area – Estimated at \$88,132</li> <li>3. Alternative #3 – Perimeter Walk with Seating Area- Estimated at \$24,430</li> <li>4. Alternative #4 – Grading on Slope at Baseball Field - Estimated at \$13,186</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Preliminary Costs of both the original design and updated design were discussed.</li> <li>● The budget for both the original design and updated design were discussed</li> <li>● The E. Gallentine is looking for a vote to move forward with amended design.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>N. O'Connor and E. Gallentine discussed donations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● N. O'Connor moved to approve the Amendments to the Brookline Avenue Renovation Plan as presented and recommended by Erin Gallentine, Director of the Parks and Open Space Division, and request that the Park and Open Space Division move the project into final design and construction bid documents, and make any changes as necessary to support the design intent of the concept plan and the overall goals of the Town. Seconded by C. Batchelor. All in favor.</li> <li>● The Commission thanked C. Batchelor for all the work she did on this project</li> <li>● The plan needs to go before the Conservation Commission because it is within the flood plain.</li> <li>● E. Gallentine discussed the construction time line.</li> </ul>	<p>by C. Batchelor. All in favor.</p>
<p><b>Park and Open Space Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Corey Hill Design review commenced and the upcoming meeting dates are April 7 (kick off meeting), April 28<sup>th</sup> (will be a site walk) , May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>● Emerson Garden Design review is scheduled to commence April 26<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>● E. Gallentine gave updates on Eliot Playground</li> </ul>	

	<p>that included the completion of the BYB Outfield fence, improvements to the shed and pitchers practice and removing 2 panels along the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseline of Warren Field at the request of Brookline High School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The Halls Pond 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary will take place on June 12<sup>th</sup> , from 3-5 pm. It will be free, open to the public and at Wheelock College. They have done tremendous work.</li><li>● E. Gallentine discussed the Brookline Reservoir Gatehouse Roof Renovation-Design. The design team has been put together and they have selected an Architect team.</li><li>● The Brookline Village Triangle Improvements will start in the next 4-6 weeks. E. Gallentine discussed the scope of the work of this project.</li><li>● The spring tree planting is very extensive this year in both the parks and public way.</li><li>● The Griggs Park improvements were discussed.</li><li>● E. Gallentine discussed the St John and Green St improvements. The bluestone seating area was discussed.</li><li>● The Putterham Library Reading Garden update was discussed.</li><li>● The wayfinding/interpretive signage project has been approved by the Board of Selectman. The timeline of this project was discussed.</li><li>● The Emerald Necklace/Bike Pedestrian project is underway. E. Gallentine discussed what work was done in-house.</li><li>● Olsmted Tree Society has been matching the Town's tree work dollar for dollar in the Emerald Necklace. They are contemplating expanding it to beyond the emerald necklace.</li><li>● The Larz Anderson Park 18 month temporary art exhibit will go up May 2016.</li><li>● E. Gallentine wanted to let the Commission know the book; The Larz and Isabel Anderson: Wealth and Celebrity in the Gilded Age written by Skip Moskey has been released. E. Gallentine is looking to do a book release at Larz Anderson auto museum in June/July. This is really exciting and important for the future of Larz Anderson Park. The research he has done is incredible.</li><li>● Brookline Bikes Beacon will take place Sunday</li></ul>	
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	<p>May 22<sup>nd</sup> registration is at 11, the parade starts at 12:30 pm and ends at 3:00 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pierce Playground Schematic Scheme was shown. The construction is under way.</li> <li>• The schedule is as followed:</li> </ul> <p>Spring Close Upper Play          Summer Close Entire Park          Fall Close Athletic Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This has been hard for the school; they have a lot of kids to get out during recess. It will be challenging with the congestion from this park spilling into other smaller surrounding parks. E. Gallentine discussed a donor for the ornamental fence.</li> <li>• A Dukakis Riverway Dedication update was given. E. Gallentine stated that we have raised the funds to complete this project. E. Gallentine discussed the work that the Emerald Necklace Conservancy will be doing in this area. E. Gallentine is hoping for the dedication to take place in the fall. E. Gallentine shared the language that will be inscribed on the top face of the plinth.</li> </ul> <p>An update on Fisher Hill was given to the commission that consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park Construction Completion</li> <li>• Pathways, Plantings, Parking Lot, Furniture, Safety Surfacing</li> <li>• Play Area – Accessibility, Barrier, Seating</li> <li>• Donor Recognition</li> <li>• Fisher Avenue Streetscape Completion</li> <li>• Soft opening summer 2016</li> <li>• Grand opening fall 2016</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Vote on Corey Hill Design Review Committee</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Park and Recreation Commission went through the applications that were submitted to apply for the Corey Hill design review Committee.</li> <li>• The Commission moved to appoint, Mike Lyndtrom, Lisa Wilkins and Gale Wolffstorf to the Corey Hill Design Review Committee.</li> </ul>	

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<b>Other Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No New Business</li></ul>	
<b>Adjourn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N. O'Connor moved to adjourn. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor.</li></ul>	

**Next Meeting: May 10, 2016      Location: Town Hall, Room 111**

**A true record**

**Attest**     Jessica White    

**Date: 4/12/2016**