

Clara Batchelor, Chair
Theresa Mooney, Vice Chair
Carol Caro
Michael O'Connor
Jane Flanagan
Debbie Hatzieleftheriadis
Lauren Bernard
Rory Hallowell, Associate Member



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**Park and Recreation Commission Agenda
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

- 1. 6:00 PM - Welcome and Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 31, 2026**
 - 1a. Draft Park and Recreation 8.31.26 Meeting Minutes
- 2. 6:05 PM - Public Comment on matters not included on the agenda**
- 3. 6:10PM - Presentation and Discussion on the Fiscal Year 2028 Community Preservation Act Grant Project Applications for the Parks and Open Space Division and the Recreation Department**
- 4. 6:40 PM - Presentation, Discussion, Public Hearing, and Vote on the Fiscal Year 2028 Capital Improvement Plan for the Parks and Open Space Division and the Recreation Department**
- 5. 7:40 PM - Evelyn Kirrane Aquatics Center Private Rental Fee Discussion and Approval**
 - 5a. East Coast Divers Comments
- 6. 8:10 PM - Beaver Country Day Reciprocal Usage agreement – Discussion**
- 7. 8:25 PM - Lincoln School DRC Park and Recreation Commissioner Appointment**
- 8. 8:35 PM - Boards and Commission updates**
- 9. 8:45 PM - Other Business**
- 10. 8:50 PM - Adjourn**

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Park and Recreation Commission Minutes
Monday, August 31, 2026 at 6:00 PM

1. 6:00 PM: Welcome and Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2026

Absent: Michael O'Connor, Rory Hallowell

Clara Batchelor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Jane Flanagan moved to accept the July 14th meeting minutes

Result: Passed; Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

Voting Aye: Lauren Bernard, Jane Flanagan, Carol Caro, Debbie Hatzieleftheriadis, Clara Batchelor

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: None

1a. Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of 7.14.26

2. 6:05 PM: Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

Tim Davis mentioned the letter from David Lipton, which is attached to this agenda.

2a. Daniel Lipton Theater Arts Program Letter

3. 6:10 PM: Moderators Committee on Outdoor Lighting DRAFT Bylaw Discussion

Tim Davis introduced David Pollack from the Moderators Committee on Outdoor Lighting to start the discussion on the draft bylaws.

Matt Hyatt and Alisa Planonja, members of the Moderators Committee, were also introduced.

David Pollack summarized the history of the Moderators Committee and discussed the Warrant Articles. The draft bylaws are attached to this agenda.

Guiding principles of the bylaws.

Useful

Targeted

Low Light Levels

Controlled Color

Exemptions can be brought before the Planning Board. Outdoor lighting must be shielded, with warmer color temperatures, timelines, and replacements. There are two time horizons: a 5-year compliance for all lighting in town, except as exempted, and a 1-year horizon for easy fixes.

Street lighting is exempt. There will be discussion about whether the exemption should be extended to pathways. Requirements for sports and recreation fields include compliance with recommended practices. Public Works has put a \$700K cost estimate to come into compliance. There is an assessment about field lighting. A new section involves lighting to be severely limited in environmentally sensitive areas. There are 8 properties listed in the draft where current lighting could remain in place, subject to other requirements.

Alisa Plazonja mentioned the environmental (impact on wildlife) and safety issues along pathways regarding Muddy River and Larz Anderson, which are open in the evenings.

Certain areas currently lack lighting (Larz Anderson, Muddy River). They would have to go to the select board.

He suggested the streetlight exemption be extended to pedestrian and bike pathways.

Alexandara Vecchio, Director of Sustainability and Natural Resources, referred to the feedback memo from DPW (attached to this agenda). She said none of the lighting on Brookline athletic fields is compliant with these bylaws. The minimal cost would be \$700K to bring them into compliance. Lights along the public way are not exempt from the bylaws and would require a more comprehensive assessment to determine cost. Regarding the environmentally sensitive areas, the Conservation Commission has jurisdiction. These decisions would need to go through a design review process. She suggested a phased approach and that the projects be looked at on a case-by-case basis, rather than an all-out exclusionary principle on any particular location.

Kyle Williams, Athletic Director of Brookline High, noted the increase in sports participation at the high school and town-wide and the need for field capacity. Later dismissal from school means less daylight for activities.

Tim Davis brought up future development, the fact we are land-strapped. We have magnificent facilities where usage could be extended throughout the evenings — particularly in the fall and winter. Larz Anderson, the golf course, Fisher Hill, and the areas abutting it would not allow lighting per these bylaws. (The Recreation Dept. feedback memo is attached to this agenda).

Commissioner's Comments:

Clara Batchelor asked if the fields at Beaver Country Day (private school) would be affected.

David Pollack responded yes to all properties in town — 5-year compliance. The only part that is specific to town-owned properties is the section regarding environmentally sensitive areas.

Lauren Bernard asked about permanence versus a review process; what is the process?

Jane Flanagan talked about the dusk-to-dawn ordinance and asked for clarification. She

reiterated the lack of practice fields for Brookline residents. How do we phase in the expenses?

Jane Flanagan asked for clarification regarding whether an existing light would stay but is

actually in violation of the dusk-to-dawn policy.

Alisa Plazonja responded that if the area is already illuminated, it can still exist, but it needs to come into compliance within the timeline.

Jane Flanagan is concerned about the lack of recreational space for our public residents.

Debbie Hatz referred to the Open Space & Recreation Plan and asked what is included in the wetlands, and what will the lights impact?

Tim Davis asked if the bylaws would affect the lighting of the Soule Park renovation project or would it have to go through a DRC.

David Pollack responded that it could be considered as long as it is designed according to best practices. Mentioned 3 areas that could not be considered.

There is no lighting on the fields at Larz and extremely limited on pedestrian paths, etc.

Carol Caro asked if the Amory tennis courts were considered to be a sensitive area.

David Pollack responded no.

Lauren Bernard followed up by asking about Waldstein tennis courts.

Tim Davis said they are lit but not in compliance with the draft bylaws.

Alexandra Vecchio said all lights would need the necessary shielding and/or the color temp be brought down, plus necessary shielding. It would require an entire swap of the lighting fixtures. Color temp is not an issue for sports lighting, though shielding is.

William Smith stated we need to look at the user base more comprehensively — parking lots, the library, etc. Look at the pedestrian perspective, a user perspective, drivers, bicyclists, etc.

He referred to the Illumination Engineering Society standards/guidelines.

Jane Flanagan asked for clarification of the phased-in approach.

Alisa Plazonja said nothing prevents the town from taking a broader view. David Pollack said the 5 years will go by fast — the staffing needs, the fact that the CIP doesn't have a fund for this, are challenges.

Most of the street lighting is exempt; maybe exempt pathways and sidewalks. This feedback will allow for the Moderators Committee's consideration/response. He noted the town has been making lighting Dark Sky compliant per the 2014 resolution.

Clara Batchelor is concerned about the 5-year limit and the budget implications, and that the Commission cannot have input on certain parks. She thinks the lighting issue is more of a building code rather than an activity.

Lauren Bernard also has concerns about the cost and the 5-year requirement. Has the School Committee been brought into this discussion? Does the bylaw consider the time changes, after-school programs, and extended school days? We need a holistic approach.

David Pollack responded that they have not reached out to the School Committee. School grounds should have well-designed outdoor lighting with shielding, color temp, and not overly bright. Enforcement is going to be complaint-driven after the time limits.

Matt Hyatt referenced the IES recommendations in regard to town projects. He commented on the intent of the bylaw versus strict enforcement.

Alexandra Vecchio cited the Pierce School and Washington Street projects as examples of capital projects being compliant. They were part of a holistic design concept.

William Smith noted both DPW and the School Committee cooperated on the Pierce School and looked comprehensively at School Street being Dark Sky compliant.

Tim Davis asked why this issue is going to be presented at the fall town meeting versus waiting

until spring since we were brought in late in the game.

David Pollack said there was a deadline for it to be filed for the 2026 fall meeting. With the Moderator's input, the impact that lessens the scope would be admissible.

Public Comments:

Antonia Bellalta, 40 Davis Avenue. She spoke of sharing open space with constituents, sports, and nature. Has anyone looked at the impact of what is happening down the road with the population increase in Brookline? The need to expand hours in our open space and not exclude. She noted wildlife issues: sharing open spaces, balancing out, not excluding one or the other. She commented on the golf course being a family destination with various activities such as concerts, movies, and events after dark. She is concerned about the exclusionary portion of the bylaw.

Joslin Murphy read a statement of her support for the bylaw, which is attached to this agenda.

Clara Batchelor stated this is an informational meeting only — no vote will be taken.

Jane Flanagan commented that this issue brings together the needs of lighting in our commercial areas and protects environmentally sensitive areas, which aligns with our Climate Action Resiliency Plan, our Park and Open Space Plan, and other plans/bylaws. She noted the golf course habitat, a place for people to walk and enjoy the course.

3a. Draft Outdoor Lighting GBL as Voted 08.11.26

3b. Public Comment

3c. Draft Lighting Bylaw Feedback

3d. Catherine Donaher Letter

3e. Joslin Murphy Letter

3f. A Sustainable World Requires Darkness at Night

3g. DPW Outdoor Lighting Memo

4. 7:30 PM: Park and Open Space Division Update

Milee Pradham presented the division update, which is attached to this agenda.

Summary:

Open Positions

Project Updates

Amory Playground — waiting for Eversource to respond

Schick Park - open

Monmouth Park — demolition in progress — open during construction

Pierce Playground & School — geothermal well work is ongoing & on schedule

Eliot Community Garden - ongoing work

Waldstein Tennis Courts — closed through September

Design and Documentation

Griggs Park - 50% complete

Skyline Park - on hold

Lincoln School — starting soon

Larz Anderson — meetings 3 & 4 coming up

Hall's Pond Sanctuary Reopening Celebration

Stewardship Sundays — Sept. 20 and Oct. 4

Lauren Bernard asked about the shading on the Driscoll Playground

Millee Pradhan responded that they are working on the shade issue and will start the design process soon.

Clara Batchelor asked about the sledding hill at Pierce Playground.

Millee Pradhan will check with the landscape architects and report back.

4a. Park and Open Space Update Presentation

5. 7:40 PM: Recreation Department Update

Tim Davis presented the update.

Summary:

Staffing Update

Eliot Rec Center Construction — starts Sept. 8, Admin. Staff will be relocated to BEEC on Hammond Street (Soule)

EKAC - Labor Day Closure

Golf Course — all 18 holes are open; the drainage project a success; Three more concerts

Summer Concerts well attended

Brookline Day — Sunday, Sept. 27th

Carol Caro suggested signage for the Putterham pathway and handrails on benches.

Tim Davis responded that the signage will be up in the next few weeks.

The Park and Recreation email is forwarded to Tim Davis and Millee Pradhan. They are then forwarded to the Commission members.

Harvestfest is scheduled for October 24th. The 40th anniversary of the Green Space Alliance will

coincide.

5a. Recreation Dept. Update Presentation

6. 7:50 PM: Other Business

Tim Davis ran through the **September 8th** Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

This will be the public hearing for the CIP.

Vote of support for the Recreation Department and Park and Open Space Division CIPs

Earlier that day, the select board will vote for the new Park & Recreation Commissioner, who may be sworn in for the September meeting.

We will look for a new Vice Chair

Brookline Ave Development Committee

Appoint a Commission member to the Lincoln School DRC

CPA discussion

EKAC private rental fee discussion (East Coast Divers)

Beaver Country Day reciprocal usage agreement

Jane Flanagan asked about a CIP process.

Tim Davis responded that he and Milee receive the kick-off memo from Chas and what the boards and committees are for approval. The CIP projects are filtered through the Park and Recreation Commission for input on what to push forward before they are entered into the system.

7. 8:00 PM: Adjourn

Clara Batchelor moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous.

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