

**Town of Needham
Select Board
Special Meeting
Minutes for Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Rosemary Recreational Complex
and
Via ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83653117812>

- 6:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A special meeting of the Select Board was convened by Chair Marianne Cooley. Those present were Marcus Nelson, Kevin Keane, Heidi Frail, Matthew Borrelli, and Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager. Dave Davison, ATM/Finance, Katie King, ATM/Operations, and Myles Tucker, Support Services Manager were also in attendance. Mary Hunt, Recording Secretary recorded the meeting remotely.
- 6:00 p.m. Town Manager:
Approve Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and the Needham Firefighters Local 1706, Units A and B for FY2023 and FY 2024 – 2026:
- Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager recommended that the Board approve and sign Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and the Needham Fire Union Local 1706 for the period FY2023 and FY2024 through FY2026. She said the Agreements achieve a first step in the Board’s objective to remove the Fire Department from the Civil Service system, improve the Town’s recruitment efforts by increasing EMT/Paramedic pay, expand educational opportunities, and include other monetary and language items as shown on the attached MOA.
- Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Board approve and sign the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and the Needham Fire Union Local 1706 for FY2023 and FY2024 through FY2026.**
Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.
- 6:15 p.m. Claxton field Update:
Katie King, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Operations, Carys Lustig, Director of Public Works, Tim McDonald, Director of Health & Human Services, Stacey Mulroy, Director of Park & Recreation, and members of the Finance Committee updated the Board on the status of the Claxton Field environmental sampling project.
- Ms. King reminded the Board of the joint meeting held on February 15, 2023 to discuss soil testing at Claxton Field at the request of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. King said Weston and Sampson took soil samples and ran a number of tests.

Ms. Lustig discussed the results of the samples, saying they are similar to anticipated findings after original testing was done in January 2022. She noted the anticipated results were that soils below 12 inches were contaminated and soils above 12 inches were not contaminated, noting the most recent testing results confirmed the findings. Ms. Lustig said the benefit of the confirmed findings is that there is little to no risk in using Claxton Field in its current condition, noting the Licensed Site Professional felt very comfortable with the Town's use of the field as a recreation facility. She commented on the Massachusetts Contingency Plan requiring Weston and Sampson to submit a 120 day notice regarding tier placement and the requirement of the town to work with the DEP on the project until construction happens and a geotextile fabric is installed to cap the site.

Discussion ensued on follow up testing, reporting, and slightly elevated lead levels in the laydown area where soil had been disturbed by construction contractors. Ms. Lustig commented on renovation work and schedule, which she said remain the same.

Ms. King thanked the various user groups who worked to identify additional sites, if "Plan B" were necessary. She said the next steps include going to the CPC for consideration at fall Town Meeting, noting another joint meeting is not necessary unless something unanticipated arises.

Discussion ensued on cost estimates from Weston and Sampson associated with additional required reporting.

Mr. Nelson asked about possible additional amenities to the project, i.e., dugouts or lights.

Ms. Lustig said the original plan called for major reconstruction, discussed swapping the varsity and JV fields and/or moving the JV field to McLeod Field, and the possibility of adding amenities i.e., dugouts, lights. She said there is an opportunity to add amenities after the fact, but the plan won't look the way it was originally envisioned or designed.

Mr. Keane asked about the lay down barrier and what will happen to it since the Tot Lot is not returning.

Ms. Lustig said the land will be restored to its original grade with grass added, until another use is considered.

Ms. Frail asked if the quarry is impacted.

Ms. Lustig said she does not believe the quarry is affected, but further investigation is required.

Mr. Borrelli commented it is beneficial for the plan to include all possibilities. He thanked everyone for their work, noting it has been a detour, but it looks like everything will turn out ok.

Discussion ensued on use of the field for the boys and girls teams.

Appointments and Consent Agenda:

Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Select Board vote to approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.

APPOINTMENTS: - No Appointments were made at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Extend the authorization granted to the Town Manager by its vote of June 9, 2020 to grant all local approvals necessary to allow existing local businesses to utilize outdoor seating in parking lots, on-street parking spaces, sidewalks, landscaped yard areas or other appropriate locations to provide more space to serve patrons until April 1, 2024, such authorization to remain subject to all the terms and conditions stated in the Board's original vote and to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023.**
- 2. Vote to waive the Outdoor Dining License fees for Calendar Year 2023.**
- 3. Authorize the consumption of alcohol, as defined by M.G.L. c. 138, Section 1, that has been sold in association with take-out service of food pursuant to Section 13 of c. 53 of the Acts of 2020, as amended by Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, at the Town Common, the Needham Heights Common/Avery Square, and Eaton Plaza under the provisions of Section 3.1.9 of the General By-laws of the Town until April 1, 2024.**

Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Ms. Cooley commented on waiving outdoor dining license fees this calendar year and that the State of Massachusetts has extended outdoor dining for one more year.

6:24 p.m.

Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Select Board vote to adjourn the Select Board meeting of Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

A list of all documents used at this Select Board meeting is available at:

<http://www.needhamma.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=99&Type=&ADID>

The next special Select Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 7, 2023 and the next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting is Wednesday, April 12, 2023.