

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

December 17, 2014 – 7:00 PM – Memorial Park Building

PRESENT: John Gallelo, Chairman; Jim Healy, Clerk; Mark Forbes; Chuck Mangine; Ron Sockol; and John Bulian, Board of Selectman Chairman

GUESTS: Cindy Chaston and Mike Retzky, Park and Recreation Commissioners; Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager; and Chris Coleman, Assistant Town Manager

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gallelo at 7:00 PM. We met with Park & Rec Commissioners Chaston and Retzky to discuss the following:

- We requested an advance copy of the proposed field use schedule for Memorial Park so we could review it and determine if there might be any conflicts with field use requests the Trustees had received or knew about – P&R agreed.
- We requested that any decision to potentially take Memorial Park fields out of use be forwarded to us for review and our decision – P&R agreed, and also with consultation with Parks & Forestry.
- We requested confirmation that during the fall season, football would be given primary access to the Memorial Park multi-purpose field – P&R confirmed.
- We advised we believed the Trustees should have the field lights access code in the event of an issue or emergency – P&R did not disagree but referred this to the Town Manager and also suggested we review the Zoning Board of Appeals decisions on same.
- We advised we may soon discuss potentially asking the ZBA to increase the times field lights may be in operation at Memorial Park. We asked P&R if they wanted to join in this discussion with respect to the field lights at DeFazio Park – P&R said they would bring this back to their Commission.
- P&R suggested a potential joint meeting in the future between both Boards.

We then met with Town Manager Fitzpatrick and Assistant Town Manager Coleman to discuss the following:

- We thanked Town employees Ed Olsen and Chip Laffey for their fine assistance with both the monument area (especially the new Fallen Brave stone) and the Memorial Park Building issues.
- We advised we believed the Trustees should have the field lights access code in the event of an issue or emergency – Fitzpatrick stated she would look into the current “field lights access and protocol” and get back to us. Fitzpatrick also

stated she would need to review of the Zoning Board of Appeals decisions on same.

- We advised we may soon discuss potentially asking the ZBA to increase the times field lights may be in operation at Memorial Park – Fitzpatrick said she encouraged a global conversation about this issue and also engage the neighborhood.
- We advised we intended to spend our proposed FY'15 appropriation (\$750.00) on new flags for the monuments and stones. We asked that when the flags are received, they be delivered to us at the Memorial Park Building – Fitzpatrick agreed.
- We asked for support of the proposed Capital Warrant Article of \$20,000 to replace and renovate the “Gateway Garden” – both Fitzpatrick and Bulian said they supported passage of this Article.
- We discussed the status of the Town’s long-term capital plan, and whether there is any hope of obtaining funding to replace the Memorial Park Building. Mangine and Healy described their prior meetings with the Town’s consultants and employees concerning the ongoing Townwide Facility Master Plan. Possible funding sources might include some amount of “free cash” (potentially to be set aside in a Capital Fund), Community Preservation monies, and private fundraising. We discussed potentially collaborating with the private Community Center Committee.
- We inquired of the schedule for turf replacement – Fitzpatrick stated it may be in the 2018 timeframe, some money was already in the Capital Plan for same, and additional funding is also currently being considered.
- Fitzpatrick asked if we wanted a formal “Town liaison” to attend our meetings and assist with our administrative matters – we advised we would discuss same.

We discussed locking the gate that allows vehicle access on to the turf field (which can cause extensive and very costly damage to the field) – with Town, school, police, fire and emergency personnel all having immediate access to the key.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk