

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2015 – 7:00 PM – Memorial Park Building

PRESENT: John Gallelo, Chairman; Jim Healy, Clerk; Mark Forbes; Chuck Mangine;

ABSENT: Ron Sockol; and John Bulian, Board of Selectman Chairman

GUESTS: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gallelo at 7:05 PM. A quorum was declared.

The Minutes of the 12/17/14 meeting were presented and approved – 4 to 0.

A letter from Town Manager, Kate Fitzpatrick, to the Trustees dated January 28, 2015, was presented and briefly discussed (since it had only been received shortly before this meeting commenced and not all Trustees were yet in possession of same). However, those Trustees who had received the letter expressed consternation over the position that the Trustees may not be provided with access to the Memorial Park field light codes. This issue will be further discussed. The Trustees agreed to the following other observations stated in Ms. Fitzpatrick's letter:

- There must be a plan developed (the Trustees believe immediately) for the renovation and reconstruction of the Memorial Park Building. The Trustees suggested monies be authorized from Town Meeting and/or through a FinCom Reserve Fund Transfer to do a "feasibility study" concerning same.
- The special warrant article in the amount of \$20,000 to improve the Memorial Park "Gateway Garden."
- That "capital" funds continue to be set aside to pay for the anticipated and usual replacement of the field turf.

Healy and Gallelo gave a summary of their attendance at the FinCom Budget Hearing on 1/7/15 for the Trustees of Memorial Park line item.

The Trustees received five (5) Special Event / Waiver Requests, as follows:

- Needham Jr. Football – Sunday 4/12/15, 2:30 to 5:00, to do an "Open House".

- Needham High School – Saturday 5/16/15 (rain date of Sunday 5/17/15) from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm for a 50 inning NHS Baseball alumni game.
- Needham Soccer Club – Friday 5/22 to Monday 5/25/15 for the 39th Needham Memorial Day Soccer Tournament, use on Sunday 5/24 does not commence until 9:00 am, and use on Monday 5/25 does not commence until 1:00 pm.
- Park and Recreation – “Arts in the Parks” programs on Thursdays, July 9, 16, 23, 30, and August 6 and 13, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
- Needham Jr. Football – Waiver Request to start use of field prior to 9/1/15 (due to later Labor Day); Game on Saturday 8/29/15 from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm.

Gallelo explained that per Trustee practice and procedure, such Special Event and Waiver Requests are presented at one meeting, but **not voted upon** until a subsequent meeting.

We discussed potential issues involving Needham Jr. Football and American Legion Baseball over the times the field lights may be in operation. However, no such issues have yet been presented to the Trustees so no action need yet be taken.

We discussed the date on which the 90' baseball diamond should be open for play in the spring. The Trustees voted 4 – 0 on the date of 4/5/15, unless Parks & Forestry advise the field can be opened on 4/1/15, as is the general rule for all Town fields.

Healy discussed his meeting with Parks & Forestry's Ed Olsen and a third party vendor on the issue of “netting” for the 90” baseball diamond.

We discussed a potential issue concerning which sports group – Needham Soccer Club or Needham Baseball & Softball – would use the 60' baseball/softball diamond on Friday nights. The Trustees agreed this diamond was constructed for the specific purpose of being available (within reason) for baseball/softball. The Trustees agreed to let the two groups attempt to resolve this use issue, and if no resolution could be reached, it should be referred to the Trustees.

We discussed whether the Trustees could have a dedicated Town phone number with an “answering machine” capability at Town Hall.

We discussed who has keys to the Memorial Park Building. Gallelo stated he would discuss same with Park and Recreation's Patty Carey.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk