

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 2, 2015 – 7:00 PM – Memorial Park Building

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

ABSENT: Ron Sockol

GUESTS: Bill Topham; Needham American Legion Post #14 Baseball Coach
Jeremy Moore; NHS Athletic Director Micah Hauben; and NHS Varsity
Baseball Coach, Matt Howard

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gallelo at 7:07 PM. A quorum was declared.

The Minutes of the 1/28/15 meeting were presented and approved – 5 to 0.

Moore requested permission for the 90' field lights to stay on until 10:00 pm, in the event the Legion baseball team makes the playoffs. The Trustees were generally in favor of this request, but as is our policy will not vote on same until our next meeting.

We presented and discussed the following four (4) Special Event / Waiver Requests, described as follows:

- Needham Exchange Club – to use the Park for the annual July 4th festivities, from 7/2/15 to 7/5/15.
- 128 Lacrosse Club – to use the turf field for practice on eight (8) days from 6/23/15 to 7/21/15.
- Rocket Lacrosse – to use the turf field for a girls clinic on three (3) days from 6/29/15 to 7/1/15 (not in conflict with the dates and times of the above Request).
- Needham American Legion Post #14 Baseball to use the 90' baseball diamond:
 - To run tryouts on eight (8) Sundays, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, from 4/12/15 to 5/31/15;
 - For games and practices from 6/7 to 8/1/15;

- And to operate the field lights on 6/12, 6/19, 6/26, 7/10 and 7/17/15.

Each of these Special Event / Waiver Requests will be further discussed and voted at the Trustees next meeting.

We took up the five (5) Special Event / Waiver Requests presented at our last meeting on 1/28/15. The Trustees voted 5 – 0 in favor of each of the following:

- 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.

For “new business”, Healy discussed the follow-up communication Ed Olsen received from the Forenet, Inc., company concerning the potential renovations and upgrades that might be able to be made to the backstop / netting at the 90’ baseball diamond. The Trustees asked that Gallelo meet with this company’s representative at the field to obtain more information concerning these matters – and bring such information back to the Trustees for further discussion.

The Trustees confirmed that there shall be no shoveling / plowing of any natural grass fields at Memorial Park. Also, that the turf field may only be plowed for the annual Thanksgiving Day football game, by an approved vendor, under the direct supervision and control of the Parks and Forestry Director, and with prior notice to the Trustees.

As a potential one-time exception to this general policy, the Trustees stated that if NHS Athletic Director Micah Hauben wants to request that the turf field be shoveled / plowed this March 2015, he must send a written request to the Trustees and the Directors of both the Parks & Forestry Department and Park and Recreation Commission, and those two (2) Directors must consent to such work in writing to the Trustees. The Trustees voted 5 – 0 to give its Chair (Gallelo) authority to act upon this assented-to request, but only after polling the other Trustees in writing – given that such request may be received before the next Trustees’ meeting on April 8.

The Trustees asked for clarity from the Park & Recreation Commission on the date in the spring that the Town’s fields are open for use (weather permitting). The Trustees believe the operative date is April 1 for all fields – natural grass and turf – but Hauben

stated the High School has historically been allowed to use the turf fields on the date set by the MIAA for spring practice to commence (this year 3/16/15). If this is the case, the Trustees stated this policy should be clarified in writing and the Trustees should be consulted with respect to same.

The Trustees told Hauben about the vote the Trustees had taken at our last meeting (1/28/15) – that the 90' baseball diamond shall not be open for use until 4/5/15, unless Parks & Forestry advises the field can be opened on 4/1/15, as is the general rule for all Town fields. Hauben said he understood this and had no objection.

Patty Carey had submitted an email request concerning whether the Trustees wished to have the Concession Stand Revolving Fund continued by Town Meeting. The Trustees voted 5 – 0 as follows:

- to request continuance of this revolving fund;
- to waive any set fee (or percentage of revenue) to sports groups that use the concession stand, and instead accept voluntary donations to the revolving fund;
- to use the monies in this fund for future renovations and minor repairs.

The Trustees also requested clarity from the Town's Finance Director concerning the precise current balance of this revolving fund.

A Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved 5 – 0 at 7:59 pm.

Next Trustees meeting is Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 7:00 pm, at Memorial Park

END OF MINUTES.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk