

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 16, 2015 – 7:30 PM – Memorial Park Building

PRESENT: John Gallelo, Chairman; Jim Healy, Clerk; Mark Forbes; Chuck Mangine; Bill Topham; Matt Borrelli, BOS designee; and David DiCicco, Parks & Recreation designee

GUEST: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gallelo at 7:30 PM. A quorum was declared.

The Minutes of the 6/11/15 meeting were reviewed. It was brought to the attention of this Clerk that the minutes did not include the discussion about Needham Junior Football's request for a special event waiver to leave the field lights on until 10:00 p.m., on four game days – 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, and 10/24. Accordingly, a Motion was made, seconded and approved (5-0) to amend the 6/11/15 minutes to reflect this discussion. The Trustees then took up this special event waiver request again, and a Motion was made and seconded to approve to waiver request – Voted in favor 5-0.

The Trustees thanked Matt Ching, Trustee Bill Topham and the Board of Selectmen for including Memorial Park in Needham's recognition as a Purple Heart Community. Accordingly, Topham made sure our Purple Heart flag was flying on August 7.

Topham advised that in his capacity as Keeper of the Graves and Master of Ceremonies, he is working with the Town Manager's Office to develop a better sound system for our special events such as Memorial Day, July 4th, and Veteran's Day, and that the Trustees do not need to be involved in this matter. Trustee Chuck Mangine agreed to look into building a replacement podium.

The Trustees discussed the water bubbler situation at the Park. The Trustees voted unanimously and strongly to support the continued use of a water bubbler at the Park. In addition, the Trustees would support a water bottle filling station **in addition** to a working water bubbler.

The Trustees began discussions on how we would like to use our FY '16 operating budget appropriation of \$750. We will further discuss this topic at future meetings. The Trustees then discussed the FY '17 budget – both the operating budget and capital. The Trustees voted 5-0 to submit an operating budget request of \$750 for flags and

other minor expenses at the Park. With respect to capital requests and the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the Trustees voted 5-0 to request that a new/renovated Memorial Park Building be added to the CIP, and further, that at the May 2016 Annual Town Meeting, a Warrant Article be included to fund a Feasibility Study of this construction project. Selectman Borrelli stated he will relay this to his Chair and the Town Manager.

A discussion ensued concerning who has the right to use Memorial Park's fields. The Trustees reiterated their longstanding position that if a Memorial Park field has **not** been permitted pursuant to the Joint Policy, use of the Memorial Park fields is decided solely by the Memorial Park Trustees, and further, the Trustees, as a general matter, allow use of the fields by any Needham citizen(s) as long as (i) they are not a formally organized entity/group; and (ii) they take appropriate care of the fields, (iii) they engage in lawful conduct, (iv) they do not allow animals on the fields, and (iv) they pick up after themselves. The Trustees also unanimously agreed that "captain's practices" are not a formally organized group/entity.

The Trustees re-stated their previously approved mandate that the Needham High School must hire two (2) Town of Needham employees to perform field trash pick-up duties on all game days and empty all trash barrels at the end of the contest so that any group using the field the following day will find an impeccably clean field and Park. Trustee Healy will send an email to this effect to NHS.

With respect to "trash at the Park", although there has been some improvement, this is still often an unsightly mess. The Trustees ask that more barrels be placed around the fields and Park, and further, we suggest all barrels be emptied either on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule, or a Thursday-Monday schedule, depending on how many days can be scheduled. The Trustees also agreed to invite Interim NHS Principal, Joe Barnes, to our next meeting on 10/14/15. Trustee Healy will send this invite.

Trustee Topham stated we must have our flag illuminated. Healy thought this might have been done under the Fallen Brave project. Topham and Healy will look into this matter.

A Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved 5-0 at 8:20 pm. The next Trustees meeting will be on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 7:00 pm, at Memorial Park.

END OF MINUTES.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk