

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 – 7:00 PM – Memorial Park Building

PRESENT: John Gallelo, Chairman; Mark Forbes, Vice-Chairman; Jim Healy, Clerk;
Chuck Mangine; Bill Topham; Matt Borrelli, BOS designee

GUESTS: Joe Barnes, Interim Needham High School Principal; Micah Hauben, NHS
Athletic Director

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gallelo at 7:03 PM. A quorum was declared.

The Minutes of the 9/16/15 meeting were reviewed and approved 5-0.

The Trustees remain committed to illuminating our two American flags – in the monument area and on the hill. Trustees Topham and Healy will continue investigating this issue.

The Trustees welcomed Joe Barnes and Micah Hauben to the meeting. With respect to the trash issue, Barnes confirmed that Hauben does use two Town of Needham employees to perform trash pick-up duties during and after High School games at the Park. Barnes advised he included the topic of “trash” in his beginning of the academic year opening remarks to the Junior class. He also advised that Needham Police Resource Officer, Vinnie Springer, makes periodic inspections during the school day of the parking lot and adjacent Memorial Park field area in an attempt to discourage littering.

He stated that the largest problem is that NHS has an open campus lunch policy, during which time large numbers of NHS students go for lunch at the businesses across from the Park on Highland Avenue. On their return to the High School, they dump their trash on the ground – even as empty trash cans sit just a few feet away. The Trustees asked if some NHS official could be appointed to roam the general Park area during this lunch period, and the Trustees were firm that such monitoring has to be performed by an adult who is recognized by the student body. Barnes said he would look into this, and he would also speak with the Assistant Principal, who has more day-to-day contact with the Junior and Senior classes. The Trustees stated they may consider installing “no littering” signage, and we also may implement a system of fines/penalties for littering. Last, we asked if Memorial Park trash pick-up might be added to the list of available “community service” activities.

The Trustees reminded Hauben of our long-standing position that if a Memorial Park field has **not** been permitted pursuant to the Town's Joint Scheduling 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 (v) they pick up after themselves. The Trustees also unanimously agreed that "captain's practices" are not a formally organized group/entity.

The Trustees also reminded Hauben that only they can approve the use of plows or snow blowers on the synthetic turf field, and further, that in the spring the fields will only be opened after the Trustees and Parks & Forestry Director jointly agree to do so – based on the weather and field conditions.

The Trustees then considered the following Special Event Requests:

Needham Baseball and Softball request use of the 90 foot diamond and batting cages on two weekends in September for Babe Ruth try-outs. Unfortunately, the Trustees had not previously seen this request before this October 14 meeting, and since the dates for the Request had passed, no action on same was taken.

Needham Boys Lacrosse requests use of the synthetic turf field on Sundays from 9/13/15 to 11/15/15 from 2:30 to 5:00. No action was taken on the Sundays on and before 10/11/15, because they had already occurred. The Trustees then moved, seconded and approved both a Motion to Waive the "2-Meeting" Rule and a Motion to Approve the Use – Voted 5-0.

Needham Girls Youth Lacrosse requests use of the synthetic turf field on Sundays from 9/6/15 to 11/8/15 from 12:00 to 2:30. No action was taken on the Sundays on and before 10/11/15, because they had already occurred. The Trustees then moved, seconded and approved both a Motion to Waive the "2-Meeting" Rule and a Motion to Approve the Use – Voted 5-0.

The Trustees moved, seconded and approved Motions to submit a \$750 operating budget request for flags, and a \$50,000 Capital request for a feasibility study of the renovation/reconstruction of the Memorial Park building each for the FY'17 Town Budget – both Motions Voted 5-0. The Trustees FY'17 budget hearing will occur on 11/12/15 at Town Hall at 6:15 pm.

Borrelli advised that Needham's Parks and Forestry Director, Ed Olsen, will be receiving a "Commitment to Community Award" at the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce Awards Breakfast on 11/5.

Healy will email Olsen inquiring as to the status of the corner garden renovation and field drainage improvements.

A Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved 5–0 at 8:06 pm. The next Trustees meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, 2015, at 7:00 pm, at Memorial Park.

END OF MINUTES.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk