

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 23, 2016 – 7:00 PM – Memorial Park Building

PRESENT: John Gallelo, Chair; Jim Healy, Clerk; Chuck Mangine, Bill Topham, Matt Borrelli, BOS designee

ABSENT: Mark Forbes, Vice Chair

GUESTS: Mike Retzky, Public Facilities – Construction Division; Ed Olsen, Director Parks and Forestry; Kevin Naughton; Dave DiCicco (Parks and Recreation Commission)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gallelo at 7:01 pm. A quorum was declared.

The minutes of the July 20, 2016 meeting were approved 5-0.

At our June 8 meeting, Topham had stated some of the fieldhouse windows are unable to be closed, and further, the left side/rear doorway cannot be locked. Borrelli reported this to Public Facilities, which advised in an email dated June 12 that the issues would be remedied. As of tonight's meeting, the windows in the 2nd floor meeting room are still not operating properly.

The following Special Event Requests were discussed and voted:

- Needham Baseball and Softball – for Babe Ruth tryouts on the 90' baseball diamond on 9/17 (rain date 9/24) from 2:30 to 4:30 – Motion to approve, seconded and voted in favor 5-0 – Motion also to waive the 2-meeting rule, approved 5-0.
- Needham Girls Lacrosse – for fall clinics on the synthetic turf field on 9/11,18,25; 10/2,9,16,23,30; and 11/6,13; from 2:30 to 5:30; including use of bathrooms; Motion to approve, seconded and voted in favor 5-0 – Motion also to waive the 2-meeting rule, approved 5-0.
- Needham Jr. Football – for “game days” on the synthetic turf field and 60' softball diamond on 9/3,10,24; 10/1,18,29; from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm; including use of bathrooms, concession area, and PA system – Motion to approve, seconded and voted in favor 5-0 – Motion also to waive the 2-meeting rule, approved 5-0.
- Needham Boys Lacrosse – for fall clinics on the synthetic turf field on 9/18,25; 10/2,9,16,23,30; and 11/6 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm (including use of

bathrooms) – Motion to approve, seconded and voted in favor 5-0 – Motion also to waive the 2-meeting rule, approved 5-0.

Users should obtain the key to the fieldhouse (access to concession area) from Chair Gallelo. The key to the bathrooms is on the bulletin board just inside the door to the garage area.

The Trustees engaged in a discussion about the Memorial Park Building and Grounds Feasibility Study. Healy referred to the Minutes of the Town's Permanent Public Building Committee (PPBC) dated August 8, 2016. The RFQ was approved by the PPBC and was made available on August 10, with responses due on September 1. The PPBC will take a "short list" vote on September 12, interviews will be conducted on September 26, and the final study report will be due in April 2017.

Healy again stated he believed this study should not take 7 months to complete, he believes it could be done in no more than three months, and the result of not completing it until April is that this may result in the preclusion of the "design" phase of this project not appearing on the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting. Healy stated he was not now advocating for the "design" phase to be presented at this Town Meeting, but that the Selectmen should have the opportunity to do so if that was their desire. But if the study is not completed until April, this may be a barrier to doing so.

Borrelli stated the current Capital Improvement Plan does not list the design phase as being presented at the May 2017 ATM, but it may be presented at the November 2017 Special Town Meeting, and at the latest at the May 2018 ATM. Borrelli further stated he needed to gauge both his Board's position and Town Meeting's desires with respect to this project.

Healy referenced the Board of Selectmen's "Goals" as adopted on August 16, 2016; in which it was stated that one "new initiative" was to "conduct a Memorial Park Building & Grounds Feasibility Study", and also to "develop a financing plan for the first projects in the Eight Building Plan." Borrelli stated that the Memorial Park building is included in the "Eight Building Plan." In response to Healy's question, Borrelli stated he would clarify what was meant by the development of a financing plan "for the first projects" in this Plan. Borrelli also stated he would forward a copy of this financing plan to the Trustees, and further, he stated there will be a Facility Financing Summit in October.

A good discussion ensued about all of these items between all Trustees as well as Borrelli and Retzky. In the end, the Trustees asked Borrelli if he would further discuss with his fellow Selectmen the schedule of intended capital projects and if additional consideration might be given to potentially placing the "design" phase of this project on the May 2017 ATM Warrant. Borrelli stated he would discuss this with his colleagues, but he believed this project was moving as quickly as it can.

Borrelli stated he had been contacted by Brendan Walsh and Bud Sumner (Needham Touchdown Club) concerning the possibility of constructing and installing bleachers into the "high school hill", including an announcers platform. The Trustees stated that such a project has serious and costly implications, including but not limited to the proximity of

such stands to the synthetic turf field, digging into the hill, and interference with sledders. The Trustees voted 5-0 to table this matter.

Borrelli stated there may be a “Trash Summit” in November, and the Trustees were pleased this issue was getting more attention.

Olsen and Naughton reported on the successful drainage project, and the Trustees voted 5-0 to keep the recently re-surfaced parking lot closed until August 29. The striping of the lot will occur on September 2. Olsen advised the project required paving the walkway from the parking lot to the high school side of the synthetic turf field.

Olsen raised the possibility of installing a sunscreen dispensary at the Park. Healy questioned if sunscreen might be spilled on the synthetic turf field, which might damage the field. Healy also questioned where this dispensary might be located and if it might be a likely target of vandalism. The Trustees voted 5-0 to table this matter.

Olsen stated the geese were returning to Town fields, and asked for permission to use a pesticide on the natural grass field areas that results in the geese not returning to the area, and also he intends to continue using a “geese dog” to scare the geese away. The Trustees voted 5-0 in favor of both initiatives.

A potential proposal was raised wherein the 60’ synthetic turf softball diamond would be moved closer to Kingsbury/Pickering Streets and the rectangular synthetic turf field would then be extended to the new boundaries of the softball diamond. The Trustees raise a number of concerns, including but not limited to cost of such work, the impact of noise, lights and foul balls on Kingsbury Street, and the potential need to relocate the announcer’s platform at the top of the hill. The Trustees voted 5-0 to table this matter.

Gallelo asked if Borrelli and Town officials would look into removing the old telephone pole near the Gateway Garden. Gallelo stated that when the Trustees gave permission for the Town to install the new pole, the Town in turn agreed to have the old pole removed. This has not yet occurred. Borrelli said he would look into this issue.

Healy asked, and the Trustees agreed to allow him to look into a potential “carnival” at Memorial Park.

A Motion to Adjourn was made, seconded and approved 5–0 at 8:19 pm. Chair Gallelo stated future Trustees meetings would be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, and accordingly, our next meeting is Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm, at the fieldhouse.

END OF MINUTES.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk