

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017 – 7:00 PM – Memorial Park Building

PRESENT: John Gallelo, Chair; Mark Forbes, Vice Chair; Jim Healy, Clerk; Chuck Mangine; Bill Topham; Matt Borrelli – BOS Representative

GUESTS: Mike Retzky (Public Facilities – Construction Division)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gallelo at 6:06 pm. A quorum was declared.

Healy and Borrelli mentioned that some citizens had called Town Hall and Park & Rec looking for guidance on how to use our sign boards. Forbes will handle these matters.

The Trustees had a lengthy discussion about the minutes of our meeting on April 18, 2017. By way of background, Healy stated that after he sent out on April 22 the “draft” minutes from the April 18 meeting, he received an email from Topham on April 24 complaining that not all of his comments about the high cost of the project had been included. Healy explained that the minutes are an attempt to summarize the Trustee’s views and statements but not a verbatim transcript. Healy also told Topham that if he wanted to propose more specific language to be added to the minutes, he needed to provide it to Healy so it could be considered at the next meeting.

On April 27, Topham sent a lengthy 7-paragraph email to Healy making numerous statements about the project and the PPBC. In response, Healy again asked Topham to provide the exact additional verbiage he believed was stated at the April 18 meeting and which Topham believed should be included in the minutes. In this regard, Healy believed that much of what was contained in these 7 paragraphs was not stated at the April 18 meeting. Healy did not receive a further response from Topham prior to tonight’s May 3 meeting.

[As an aside, and not discussed at this subject May 3 meeting, but on May 4 and 9, Topham re-sent to Healy both his email of April 27, as well as an email Topham had sent to Healy on April 12 (providing his thoughts on that night’s BOS and PPBC meetings). The content of the email of April 27 is addressed above, and the content of the email of April 12 obviously pre-dates the April 18 Trustees meeting and therefore could not have been stated during our April 18 meeting].

Topham reiterated his position that more of his comments about what he believes are inappropriately high estimated construction costs for this project should have been included in the minutes for the April 18 meeting. Healy stated he believes Topham’s views are fairly and sufficiently represented in the April 18 minutes. Healy also again

explained that “minutes” are not a verbatim restatement of everyone’s exact remarks, but a general summary of a speaker’s comments.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting of April 18, which motion was approved 5-1, Topham dissenting. No Motion was made to amend the proposed minutes. A motion was also made to ratify and affirm all of the votes and positions taken at the April 18 meeting, which motion was approved unanimously.

Healy reviewed with the Trustees the flier that was sent to all Town Meeting Members concerning this project. Healy pointed out that, at Topham’s request, he removed Topham’s name from the list of supporting Trustees.

Retzky reviewed with the Trustees the Executive Summary of the Winter Street Architect’s formal written report – as well as the important differences between a “renovation” and a “reconstruction/slight expansion.” Topham stated the fieldhouse should not be for other Town department’s use, that the Trustees didn’t ask for this building, that the renovation doesn’t need to be as extensive as currently planned, and it was still too expensive. Healy stated the Trustees did ask for a new/reconstructed building because the 1st floor was a garage and not a proper meeting place, there is no handicap accessibility, and the 2nd floor is in danger of being closed. Mangine said the majority of Trustees want this new/reconstructed building, and although the cost may be higher than expected or wanted, that is the result of current building costs. Forbes said this project is a good use of Town money – and that other Town Departments have proper meeting space and so should the Trustees.

Topham said the biggest problem is the project is being managed by the PPBC, who Topham believes does not do a good job. Healy and Borrelli strongly rejected this unfounded opinion. Borrelli also stated he recalls that all Trustees wanted this new/reconstructed building, to which Gallelo, Healy, Forbes and Mangine all agreed. Forbes said this is not a “Trustee” building, but a “Town” building – with so many different town uses and users.

Healy gave a summary of the town’s finances, tax collections and the how projects are funded through cash and debt (and sometimes through CPA funds). Forbes wanted confirmation that the use of the new building will still be scheduled/approved by the Trustees, and Borrelli agreed. Gallelo and Topham remain concerned about including a 2nd floor exterior deck, which they believe may result in off-hour use by young adults. Retzky again confirmed this issue will be further explored if Town Meeting approves the full design, and the Trustees will continue to be consulted. Borrelli remains in favor of the deck.

Gallelo advised that the American Legion baseball team needs lights on Fridays in June and July and maybe on Thursdays in late June and early July. Gallelo will ensure the appropriate paperwork is re-filed. The Trustees voted 5-0-1 to approve these special event requests and also to waive the 2-meeting rule for approval (Gallelo abstaining).

Mangine raised that that major sign board in the Gateway Garden is damaged and needs repairs. The Town will be contacted.

A Motion to Adjourn was made, seconded and approved 6–0 at 6:40 pm.

END OF MINUTES.

The next Trustees meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at the fieldhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk