

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – 7:00 PM – Memorial Park Building

PRESENT: John Gallelo, Chair (who arrived during the meeting); Mark Forbes, Vice Chair; Jim Healy, Clerk; Chuck Mangine; Bill Topham; Matt Borrelli – BOS Representative

GUESTS: Dave DiCicco (Park and Rec representative), and Matt Toolan (Chair – Park and Recreation Commission)

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Forbes at 7:00 pm. A quorum was declared. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting of May 3, which motion was approved 5-0.

The Needham Free Public Library submitted a Special Event Request to use the Memorial Park parking lot on August 7 (rain date of August 15) for an event entitled “Touch a Truck for Summer Reading Program” – from 2:30 to 6:00 pm. – with use of public restrooms. Motion to approve and waive the 2-meeting rule passed 5-0. Junior Football should be able to use lot after this event ends, or they can use the upper High School lots. Library is asked to contact Mark Forbes for use of sign board.

The Trustees had a good and lively conversation with Toolan and DiCicco on the following items:

- It appears that in relation to the construction of a new Rosemary Pool and building, the Town’s Planning Board may want the Park & Rec Commissioners to enter into a “parking agreement” with the Trustees of Memorial Park. The Trustees weren’t entirely sure why such an agreement is necessary as the parking lot is available to the public while attending Town events. But if an agreement is proposed, the Trustees will consider it.
- Healy inquired if now was a good time to review and potentially revise the “Joint Field Scheduling Policy.” Toolan stated there is an ongoing discussion about the need for increased field use resulting from both expanded use by existing programs and new programs. The Trustees are happy to consider a revision of this Policy, but the key for the Trustees is to be able to approve the prioritization of use for Memorial Park’s fields.
- The Trustees want to be part of the discussion surrounding the “Fee for Use of Athletic Fields” policy (dated April 18, 2017), as we don’t believe there was any such discussion when this policy was approved. This policy requires

collaboration between Park & Rec and the Trustees of Memorial Park. In essence, as this policy affects the use and maintenance of Memorial Park's fields, the Trustees want to discuss how the fees are set, how the fees are kept, and how they are spent. DiCicco offered to serve as a liaison between Park & Rec and the Trustees on this matter. The Trustees stated that beyond field maintenance and drainage improvements, two other potential cost items that could be funded by these fees are the 90' baseball diamond backstop and netting issue and more expansive bleachers for the rectangular multi-purpose field.

Ed Olsen will attend a future meeting to discuss chemical use on the natural grass surfaces – the Trustees want proper fertilization and weed/grub control.

Healy stated he had received some communications from the PPBC concerning the Trustees' "user reps" for the Memorial Park fieldhouse reconstruction project. Healy said he thought there should be change, and accordingly a Motion was made and passed unanimously, 6-0, that Bill Topham be replaced by Mark Forbes. Borrelli will continue as our other "user rep." The Trustees will shortly meet with the Architect to discuss next steps in the design of the reconstructed fieldhouse. Some Trustees want an "A" roof as opposed to a "hip" roof, and there was discussion about what the exterior of the building should look like and if there should be a 2nd floor outside deck area.

Healy stated the sound system for the Memorial Day ceremonies was very poor and he and Borrelli offered to use the new outdoor sound system that apparently has been approved for the High School. Topham advised he is not interested in that sound system, that he is the "Keeper of the Graves", this is his responsibility, and he will handle the matter.

Mangine advised he has repaired the damaged sign board, and further, he has created two permanent messages that are displayed on the sign boards when no signs are in place. One message is "Welcome to Needham, MA Memorial Park – Created by Volunteers, April 19, 1921", and "God Bless America!" Mangine also created and installed "sign hanging" instructions that must be followed. A motion was made and approved 6-0 to approve the two messages and pay Mangine for his out-of-pocket costs in repairing the damaged sign board. Great work, Chuck. Topham said the sign-hanging instructions are very important because the general public is not bright.

A Motion to Adjourn was made, seconded and approved 6–0 at 8:12 pm.

END OF MINUTES.

The next Trustees meeting is tentatively set for Thursday, July 20, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at the fieldhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk