

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 20, 2017 – 7:00 PM – Memorial Park Building

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

ABSENT: Bill Topham

GUESTS: Dave DiCicco (Park and Rec representative), Lynn Palmatier (Needham Jr. Football), Mark Meche (Winter Street Architects), Steve Popper and Mike Retzky (Needham Department of Public Facilities – Construction Division), Ed Olsen (Director, Parks & Forestry)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gallelo at 7:07 pm. A quorum was declared. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting of June 14, which motion was approved 5-0.

Lynn Palmatier, on behalf of Needham Jr. Football, stated the organization will be making a donation / gift to benefit Memorial Park in the amount of \$1,500, in recognition of the organization's thanks for using the fieldhouse concession stand during its home football game days. Lynn will work with the Trustees and Town officials to determine if it is easier and more cost efficient to donate items or money. In either event, the Trustees stated they were most grateful for the donation and will be pleased to vote to accept same. Borrelli stated the Selectmen may also have to vote to accept same.

Lynn also presented Needham Jr. Football's Special Event Request – to use the rectangular multi-purpose and 60' diamond synthetic turf fields for "game days" on September 16 and 30, and October 7, 14, 21, and 28, from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, and to use the concession stand and public restrooms, and limited, low-volume speakers. Motion to approve and waive 2-meeting rule passed 5-0.

Winter Street Architects and Public Facilities led a good and detailed discussion of the next steps for the "design" of the renovated fieldhouse. Since Town Meeting approval of this design-work, the Town will be performing a boundary survey and WSA will perform an existing conditions survey. The request for "construction" funds will be brought to the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting, and if the warrant article passes, construction would begin on July 6, 2018 and hopefully be concluded in June 2019. WSA provided a detailed "task" timeline.

WSA asked the Trustees to vote on one construction item – a proposed 2nd floor exterior deck (outside the all-purpose function room). Three options were presented – a

deck with an exterior stairway, a deck with an interior stairway, and no deck with an interior stairway. There was a good discussion and many questions were raised, but a concern was also expressed that one Trustee was not allowing every voice to be heard. Key points were that the least expensive option is the deck with an exterior stairway, which is also more favored architecturally. Mangine was concerned about a deck with an interior stairway, which might be a fire hazard. Gallello was very much against any deck because it would be vandalized and trespassers would gain unlawful access. Forbes stated he would be interested in the deck and exterior stairway option if the railings could be 5-6' high and if there was a one-way locked gate at the top of the exterior stairway. A motion was made to approve the deck and exterior stairway option, as proposed by Forbes, which passed 4-1.

WSA displayed photographs of "old New England" exteriors, potentially to be used. The Trustees were in favor of trying to blend the renovated fieldhouse into the traditional look of the "old" wing of the High School.

The Trustees approved 5-0 the High School football team changing one of their game nights to September 28 – due to Yom Kippur. The Trustees approved 5-0 both the High School fall sports schedule and the overall fall Memorial Park schedule.

Boys Lacrosse submitted a Special Event Request to use the multi-purpose synthetic turf field for clinics on Sundays from September 10 to November 12, from 2:30 to 5:00. A motion to approve and waive the 2-meeting rule was passed 5-0.

Girls Youth Lacrosse submitted a Special Event Request to use the multi-purpose synthetic turf field for clinics on tryouts on Sundays from September 10 to November 19, from 12:00 to 2:30. A motion to approve and waive the 2-meeting rule was passed 5-0.

Ed Olsen explained the Town's care of its natural grass areas, and that Needham does not target weeds – unless they present a safety concern. As a general matter, Needham only sprays to prevent poison ivy, bees and hornets. The Trustees stated it was a shame the memorial area sometimes looks so poorly because of weeds and crabgrass. Ed also said he will repair the foul ball netting surrounding the 90' diamond with outside group "field use fees."

Ed also stated he continues to monitor the trash situation at the Park. Interestingly, after July 4th, there have not been any trash problems. Because it is summertime, the High School students are not now present in the area. The Trustees believe this is an indication the trash problem is most caused by the students. Unfortunately, the High School has not yet been able to come up with a successful strategy to deal with this ongoing problem.

Ed recommended, and the Trustees voted 5-0, to place a dumpster at the edge of the parking lot (near the side alley and small stone wall) from September 1 to December 1, for use by the Touchdown Club and Needham Jr. Football. Ed also advised the Town is looking into the potential installation of "big belly" trash receptacles. Gallello said he

recently spoke to Patty Carey because the Town was not emptying all trash barrels each Monday, Wednesday or Friday, as they are supposed to be doing. Carey advised she will again address this issue with the RTS, and further, if the barrels are not being timely and properly emptied, we should contact the RTS.

We discussed the Town Manager's draft "Food Truck" policy. The Trustees agreed we would like the Park to be a "potential" option for food trucks, but only if the draft policy language is revised to state more clearly that such use would only be at the Trustees sole approval – following receipt of an application and potentially requiring attendance at a Trustees meeting. We would like to see such revised policy language before we agree to same.

DiCicco asked if the Trustees are interested in allowing at the Park a "Food Festival" showcasing food from Needham-only establishments, and we answered in the affirmative, pending a review and vote on the details.

Healy asked his colleagues to consider replacing him as Clerk, as this post requires a small bit of work and he is still working a full-time job, and also because he has filled this position for the past 4 years.

New Needham High School Athletic Director, Dan Lee, will be invited to a future meeting.

A Motion to Adjourn was made, seconded and approved 5–0 at 8:55 pm.

END OF MINUTES.

The next Trustees meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, September 6, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at the fieldhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk