

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 14, 2019 – 7:00 PM – Public Services Administration Building

TRUSTEES PRESENT: John Gallelo, Chair; Mark Forbes, Vice Chair; Jim Healy, Clerk; Chuck Mangine; John Bulian – BOS Chair / Representative to Trustees of Memorial Park

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Bill Topham

STAFF: Patty Carey, Park & Recreation Director

GUESTS: Needham Village Club: Rob Giumetti, Jerry Sharpe; High School Athletics: Dan Lee, Mike Jackson; Fieldhouse Project Manager: Mike Retzky; Needham Flag Football: Dave DiCicco

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gallelo at 7:00 pm. A quorum was declared.

The minutes of the meeting of July 17, 2019 were approved 5-0, on a motion made by Mr. Bulian and seconded by Mr. Forbes.

Village Club President Rob Giumetti and member Jerry Sharpe presented a proposal for the Village Club to donate 3 granite benches (2 kidney-shape, 1 rectangular) in the area behind the bubbler. They would also propose adding brick pavers in the area around the benches and bubbler, to improve the appearance. Installation would be done by Mike Duffy and Fieldstone Construction. Chairman Gallelo has walked the area with the proponents and with Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen. Mr. Olsen would add some trees in the near future. The hope is to do the installation prior to the ribbon cutting event. The general consensus was of support, but Mr. Healy asked that the process be confirmed with the Town Manager before final approval is given. Mr. Bulian noted that the process would include having the Trustees approve the project, and the Select Board accepting the gift to the Town. Mr. Healy made a motion to accept the donation from the Village Club and Fieldstone Construction of 3 granite benches and brick pavers, installed behind the water bubbler, with the understanding that the Town Manager needs to provide the process for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallelo and approved 5-0.

Mr. Retzky provided an update on the fieldhouse construction project. Punch list items are being completed, with the goal of turning the facility over to the Town on August 23rd. Furniture is expected to be delivered in late September/early October. The Planning Board has asked for the parking spaces designated for use by Needham High School students to be lined, so that students know which 116 spaces are for their use.

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The lot has 150 spaces, including 6 ADA spaces. Mr. Gallelo asked who would monitor, and Mr. Mangine asked if cameras could be used. Mr. Retzky noted that the agreement with the School Committee stated that the High School would monitor, but that didn't appear to be happening. Mr. Healy stated the lining was a good first step, but that additional options may need to be added. He also suggested discussing a review of the agreement with the Town Manager and School Committee, to see if the agreement needs updates, and review which should be done on a regular basis. Mr. Healy noted the echo sound inside the new building. Mr. Retzky asked that a review be done after the furniture and shades are installed, and if still an issue, look at adding sound dampening improvements.

Mr. Healy and Mr. Forbes gave an update on the Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Friday, September 20, 2019. With a theme of "completing the park," representatives from Fields of Dreams, Gateway Garden, the memorials and Fallen Brave, and the Fieldhouse will be asked to participate, as well as retired Trustees. It is hoped that the Police Honor Guard will be able to participate. Mr. Forbes is creating the program, and will include photos of the park and the fieldhouse.

The Trustees reviewed an updated draft of the interim regulations for use of the Memorial Park fieldhouse provided by the Town Manager. The Trustees have approved the prior documents, and the additional items just clarify some uses, but maintains Trustee approval throughout the document. Mr. Healy made a motion to approve the Interim Rules and Regulations for Use of Memorial Park Fieldhouse, dated August 14, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bulian and passed 5-0.

Mr. Gallelo has been approached by two groups who would like to donate a new baseball scoreboard. He will have the groups provide more information for an upcoming meeting. Mr. Mangine noted that it appeared that a truck had backed into one of the scoreboard poles. Ms. Carey will have it checked.

Needham High School Athletic Director Dan Lee and Assistant Athletic Director Mike Jackson met with the Trustees regarding cleanliness of the park after use by Needham High sports. Mr. Gallelo was particularly concerned with the conditions after a post-season baseball game sponsored by MIAA. Mr. Healy asked that the Trustees be given advance notice of a post season game, along with a plan for clean-up. Mr. Gallelo stated that the park needs to be left clean after all uses, and that an official agreement is needed, since prior staff have given their word, but there has not been a plan for clean-up. He added that it is a coach's responsibility to leave a park clean after use. Mr. Lee noted that MIAA doesn't sponsor any of the post-season games, as Needham doesn't have a facility that meets the criteria. He apologized on behalf of the staff and said that he would work on a plan for improvement that would be provided to Trustees. Mr. Healy asked that post-season information be sent to Ms. Carey who will share with the Trustees.

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Ms. Carey reviewed the synthetic turf project, delayed due to materials not being ready for shipment. The installer will put the emphasis on getting Memorial Park finished and then will finish DeFazio Park.

The Trustees held a second discussion on the request from Needham Junior Football be given a waiver to have athletic field lights on until 10 PM at the latest on the Saturdays that they host games at Memorial Park. They provided all possible dates but will only need up to five of those dates, once the schedule is available. There were no additional comments on the request. Mr. Healy made a motion to approve the request from Needham Junior Football to have the athletic field lights on until 10 PM on the Saturdays that they host games. Mr. Bulian seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

Mr. DiCicco announced that Needham Flag Football would like to donate an AED to Memorial Park, to be located outside of the building. Mr. Healy asked him to check with the Town Manager on whether it can be done and then come back to the Trustees.

Mr. DiCicco noted that 2020 is the 100th anniversary of Memorial Park. Veteran Peter Vergados would like to bring back the Wall that Heals to the park, and Mr. DiCicco is willing to assist if the Trustees have interest. Mr. Healy asked Mr. DiCicco to gather more information on the wall for an upcoming Trustee meeting.

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Mr. Bulian, seconded by Mr. Forbes, and approved 5-0 at 8:00 PM.

END OF MINUTES.

The next Trustees meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at a location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, Director of Park and Recreation on behalf of the Trustees