

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
March 1, 2016**

Minutes Approved Unanimously at the April 6, 2016 Parks & Rec Commission Meeting

In attendance: David Putnam, Faith Stevens, Sean Durkin, Sean McCann, Mark Awdycki, Dan Nason, Scott Charpentier, David Robillard, Allison Lane, Michelle Lyseth; Guests from NYBA, including Jim Forbush, Paul Cacciatore, Mike Hodge; Guests from NYSA, including Tracy Cammarano and Brian Lanceault.

5:35pm—Meeting called to order.

5:36pm—December Minutes Approved. Mark Awdycki (MA) made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting in December, Sean McCann (SM) seconded the motion, all in favor.

5:40pm—Recreation Report. AL said that registration opened for spring and summer programming and she is impressed with the amount of registrations so far. There was discussion about people being on the playing fields during the winter months and that signs should be posted to keep them off. Dave Putnam (DP) asked about recreation's summer camp and financial assistance. AL said none was available as the funds (Friends of Northborough Recreation account) were allocated last year for last year's assistance requests, and that this year's fundraising effort did not pay out. The most recent Friends' event in January was cancelled due to low enrollment and no other events are currently scheduled. AL said that approximately \$7000 is needed to provide assistance. Faith Stevens (FS), President of The Friends' group, explained the fundraising process and how funds are allocated. AL said she will look into other ways of raising funds for assistance.

5:55pm—DPW Report. Dan Nason (DN) introduced Scott Charpentier the newly hired Assistant DPW Director. DN next discussed the renovation projects at Ellsworth-McAfee Park. Students from Assabet Valley Tech have begun rebuilding the pavilion and the gazebo. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the school year. Next, DN said that the Town has settled the lawsuit "pretty favorably" with the contractor involved with the Memorial Field Observation Deck Platform project. He will next have to restructure the bid documents and rebid the job. SD asked if the original contractor was out, and if there is enough money left to cover the job, DN said yes. Lastly, DN said he is concerned that the early spring will bring extra challenges. His department is "reworking operational changes to free men up for some other operations" but if the growing season begins early as expected, all resources will be needed to keep up with mowing. DP asked AL if she anticipates requests for fields to open earlier than usual, since we had a dry winter, AL said yes. Tracy Cammarano (NYSA) said that NYSA has games scheduled for April 9/10.

6:10pm—Youth Group Discussion on Spring Field Scheduling. Representatives from youth soccer and youth baseball were present to discuss spring field scheduling. AL said that maintenance costs at Melican fields have increased, but the parties that use those fields were aware and all are satisfied with the financial arrangement. AL asked the group if there were any questions. Jim Forbush, NYBA, discussed Memorial Field usage. He said that last year, NYBA was asked to split usage of the field evenly with Babe Ruth. He said he was looking for something more equitable this year since Babe Ruth didn't use the fields last year as much as had been requested; Babe Ruth had just one team last year. This year, NYBA has 2-3 teams so far. SD said there is one Babe Ruth team. Mr. Forbush said that he worked out the schedule last year with Rick Hagen (Babe Ruth), and said the main problem is usage during the week. He said there is just one time slot open at Memorial each night. DP replied "NYBA gets 75% of the field then, Babe Ruth gets 25%". Discussion followed regarding payments. DP asked that NYBA and Babe Ruth work together regarding field scheduling and payments, and that Rec should only get involved if that arrangement is not amicable. Mr. Forbush said he will work with Mr. Hagen and come back to AL if the arrangement was not working out. DP said "our goal is to let the youth groups handle things they are unless it becomes problematic".

6:15pm—New Business.

- **Light Pollution Complaint from Kent Road regarding Memorial Field.** DN said that a resident has been complaining about light pollution coming from a utility pole in the parking lot of Memorial Field. Trees had mostly likely blocked the light in the past but the trees have since been removed. Discussion

followed. DP said that if the light is removed, it could be an opportunity for vandalism. SM made a motion to keep the light as it stands for safe operation of the park. Faith Stevens seconded, all in favor.

- **Challenger Update.** The Challenger special needs program is set to enter another year. The schedule is being confirmed. AL expects approximately 40 participants. At least that many--if not more-- buddies/volunteers are needed to help assist the players. The program will run at Melican Middle school, with practices on Tuesdays and games on Saturdays.
- **Memorial Request.** Arlene Marshall is a long time resident and recently lost her son. She would like to have a musical structure created and donated in his honor. AL will get more information.
- **Splash Pad.** AL said that Northborough Junior Women's donated \$1500 towards the Splash Pad for the 2016 season. A new sign will be put up.

6:15pm—Motion to Adjourn. SM made a motion to adjourn, MA seconded, all in favor.