

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
May 14, 2017**

These Minutes were unanimously approved at the Commission's September 5, 2017 Meeting.

In attendance: David Putnam, Mark Awdycki, Sean McCann, Sean Durkin, Faith Stevens, Scott Charpentier, David Robillard, Allison Lane and Michelle Lyseth.

5:36pm—Meeting Called to Order.

5:37pm—April Minutes Approved. Dave Putnam (DP) made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting in April. Mark Awdycki (MA) and Sean McCann (SM) seconded, all in approval.

5:38pm—Recreation Report. Allie Lane (AL) said that registration is ongoing for spring and summer programs, 'things are going well'. She said that she closed the Friends of Northborough Recreation account with the Community Foundation; that account had \$2600 and the Foundation requires a minimum of \$10,000 to remain active. AL allocated that money to summer camp scholarships.

5:45pm—DPW Report. Scott Charpentier (SC) discussed improvements to be done to Memorial Field to address poor drainage issues. Next, he said that street paving will begin after school is out for summer. Then SC updated the group with regard to the light poles at Melican Middle School. AL added that it cost \$5000 to have the poles removed, which she is splitting with Northborough Public Schools. SC said that the installation and electrical work must be bid out. DP asked if the lights would be replaced in time for Football season? SC said no, more likely after July 1, 2018. Next, discussion followed regarding sponsorship of the CPC light pole project, and how to pay the fees (roughly \$2500) for the engineering services contract, in support of a funding project for the CPC. AL said that Football isn't able to contribute, since a portion of their budget has to be allocated to rental of lights for this fall. AL next asked Soccer, but they declined since they don't use Melican fields, and don't foresee using them even after the lights have been replaced. AL next approached Best Soccer, a user group that regularly rents those fields, who said they would cover the cost as long as it was understood that they could use the fields under the lights. Once they are installed, DP asked if it was anticipated that abutters would take issue with the new lights, are they going to be more powerful? AL said no, Sean Durkin (SD) added that it's 'directed lighting, so, no issue'. Next, SC provided updates regarding Ellsworth-McAfee Park; the timber guardrail in the back of the park is being replaced; the picnic tables at the Pavilion are being replaced with ten new metal tables; a hose spigot (with non-potable water) has been placed at the irrigation shed, at the request of the Northborough Garden Club, so that they can have access to water for their plantings; mowing has been challenging to keep up, due to the rain; and 'no dogs allowed' signs have been placed at Memorial and Casey Fields.

6:10pm—New Business.

- Lincoln St. School Ball Fields. AL provided the history; a baseball field was added to the Lincoln Street School field as part of its renovation project. Jen Parsons, Lincoln St Principal, asked that the field be rested for the time being, and not be scheduled; AL agreed, and passed that information along to Paul Cacciatore, NYBA President, who had no issue. Sometime later, AL was asked by John Coderre, Town Administrator, on behalf of a different NYBA representative, to bring those fields online. However, a number of issues make that field a dangerous place to play, or visit: there is no fencing at all, including no protective fencing at 1st and 3rd base lines, the field is too small for the old kids to play, there is a drainage swale in left field, a steep drop off at the side of the field, and there is a major grading issue on the 3rd base line. It was discussed that perhaps the landscape architect went out of his area of expertise. AL added that Mr. Cacciatore told her that he is in direct contact with the subcontractor and had fill delivered to help with water drainage; SD said that the fill was 'dumped and never worked in', with rain following for the next three days, making a bigger drainage problem than was there before; SC said there is a one year warranty on work provided and that might have nullified the warranty. DP asked, 'now who's responsible?' SC said there is a dedicated 'OPM' (Owner Project Manager) who acts as third party oversight. SM asked if the field can be fixed so it's playable? SD said no, that it's placed wrong. DP said that he will call Paul to tell him to not use that field, it's unsafe as it is now, and to stop discussions with the subcontractor. AL said that as far as she's heard, a 'fence is on the way'.

- The next Parks and Rec Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 26, 5:30pm.

6:10pm—Old Business. No old business to discuss.

6:32pm—Motion to Adjourn. DP made a motion to adjourn, FS seconded, all in favor.