

**Town of Northborough  
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting  
July 17, 2018**

*These Minutes were unanimously approved at the Commission's September 4, 2018 meeting.*

**In attendance: David Putnam, Sean Durkin, Faith Stevens, Mark Awdycki, Tracey Cammarano, David Robillard, Allison Lane and Michelle Cilley.**

**5:38pm—Meeting Called to Order.** Dave Putnam (DP) introduced Tracey Cammarano, she is the newest member of the Commission.

**5:40pm—March Minutes Approved.** DP made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting in March. Sean Durkin (SD) seconded, all in approval.

**5:41pm—Recreation Report.** Allison Lane (AL) said that summer camp is going well, it has been full since April. However, camp got a late start due to the school schedule and the number of snow days used this year. Because of that, AL said that we lost approximately \$30K. AL also told the Commission that Sue Whitten retired as Zeh School Principal and Jen Parsons retired as the Lincoln Street School Principal. AL knows the new Lincoln School Principal, Jen LaMontagne, but is unaware of who the new Zeh School principal will be. AL also told the Commission that a new sign has been erected at Assabet Park in memory of Cal Cusick, former long-time Recreation Director for Northborough, who recently passed away. Money for the sign was donated from Mr. Cusick's family.

**5:50pm—DPW Report.** David Robillard (Robo) spoke on behalf of Scott Charpentier, who is out on vacation. Robo said that he has learned of a new Eagle Scout project coming up. The project is for a bench to be built at a spot leading to the walkway to the new canoe launch at Ellsworth-McAfee Park. (AL has since learned that Joshua Gauthier is the Eagle Scout responsible for this new project.) Next, Robo said that work will begin on the Memorial Park Snack Shack in Fall. Work is to be done by students from Assabet Valley Tech, with materials purchased by the Town. Improvements to be done include new roofing, trim, windows, siding, and more. The shed next to the batting cage will also have the siding replaced.

**5:55pm—New Business.**

- **Field Usage.** AL said that this year, she has received a lot of requests from adults wanting to rent soccer fields. The current usage policy was discussed. Sean Durkin (SD) asked if there are any accommodations for free play. Faith Stevens (FS) asked, should we consider that? SD asked, if there is an open field, is it ok for the public to play? AL said she is concerned about liability. Tracey Cammarano (TC) said that adults are responsible for a lot of wear and tear on the fields. DP asked, can we get a schedule so we can help police the fields? Discussion followed regarding the Open Recreation Act. AL next said that the field rental rates, if groups are not comprised of 100% Northborough residents, are \$75/hour. DP said AL should poll other towns to see what their rates/policies are. SD said, adults have the same athletic interests as kids. Discussion followed.
- **Melican Middle School Baseball Field.** AL was told by MMS in the Spring that she needs to make improvements to the ball field. However, due to the short notice, and procurement laws, those improvements were not able to be made right away. The Superintendent made the decision to have the teams shuttled to Memorial for this season. SD asked, why isn't this being paid for out of the school's budget? AL said that the schools haven't maintained their own fields since John Schunder (former DPW Director) took over that responsibility. SD repeated, it should be in the school's budget.
- **Lincoln Street School Baseball Field.** AL said the field has not been maintained and is weedy and overgrown. TC: isn't that Baseball's responsibility? DP and SD reiterated that maintaining school grounds should be paid for by the schools and youth groups together. AL said, NYSA maintains 'their' fields 12 months out of the year, and is the only youth group to do so. She asked, does the Commission want to have discussions with the schools on this or first ask NYBA to provide the same level of maintenance that NYSA does? FS: yes. AL mentioned that this field does not have irrigation. Irrigation is

available at the MMS and Zeh school fields, those projects were paid for out of CPC funds. DP: can we do that again? AL: no, CPC is helping to fund the lighting project at MMS.

- **Turf Field.** AL wants the Commission to consider having a turf field made at MMS. DP: isn't someone at the high school working on something similar? TC: I will find out who. AL said she could get funding from the CPC, grants, private donors. AL also said she was considering adding an adaptive field. DP: calculate the revenue first? AL: we don't charge for adaptive sports. SD: doesn't need to be on the priority list. DP, who is on the Town's Master Plan Steering Committee, wondered if this should be added to the Town's Capital Plan.
- **Next Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting:** scheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 5:30pm.

**7:22pm—Motion to Adjourn.** DP made a motion to adjourn, FS seconded, all in favor.