

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
September 4, 2018**

These Minutes were unanimously approved at the Commission's October 2, 2018 meeting.

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

6:01pm—Meeting Called to Order.

6:02pm—July Minutes Approved. Dave Putnam (DP) made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting in July. Sean Durkin (SD) seconded, all in approval.

6:03pm—Recreation Report. Allison Lane (AL) said that the Fall and Winter Brochure had been mailed out to Town residents and that registration began last week. Summer programs went well, only 2 programs had to be cancelled all summer. Next, AL said she met with DPW Director Scott Charpentier (SC) to do playground checks together. The seesaw at Assabet park and the jet ski at Ellsworth-McAfee Park both have been removed by the DWP due to safety concerns. AL next said that the lighting project at Melican Middle School is going well. The boring testing has been finished and the electrical engineer is meeting us in Sept. The lights will be bought this year and installed next summer. AL showed pictures of the new finished baseball field at the Melican Middle School. AL said that the MMS baseball team would only use it for about 5 weeks, during it's spring season. AL said she had spoken with Paul Cacciatore, Northborough Youth Baseball President, and that Little League will move from Peaslee to the Middle School. AL went on to say that the Legion will be paying more for its use of Memorial Field in 2019. Northborough Youth Baseball will be making significant improvements at Memorial, and the Legion uses it more than any other group time wise. Paul spoke to Joe Sullivan from the Legion, letting him know to expect to pay a higher rate next year. DP asked: Do kids pay to play Legion ball in other towns? SD said yes, the Legion gets about \$5,000 in fundraising but that the program costs about \$8,000-\$9,000 to run it.

AL next said that a representative of Chick-fil-A had visited the Rec Office inquiring about having one of their food trucks present at Ellsworth-McAfee Park on Saturdays in the Fall. AL said she hasn't hired one for the Town in the past but would like to entertain the idea if it would bring in revenue. DP said AL should find out what Community Affairs has done, since they hire Food Trucks for their summer concerts. Robo added that the trash situation would be 'horrible'. Discussion followed.

6:35pm—DPW Report. Scott Charpentier was absent, David Robillard (Robo), spoke on his behalf. No news to report. DP: any update on the new bench to be built by the Eagle Scout? Robo: no.

6:41pm—New Business.

- **Financial Aid for Summer Camp.** AL said that she needs the Commission's help regarding ideas on how to provide financial aid for families who need assistance in order to attend the Summer Recreation Camp. No donations were received this summer and the Department absorbed the cost of allowing several children to attend at reduced rates or for free. Discussion followed regarding fundraising ideas such as: Bingo, Costume Party, and more.

6:50pm—Old Business.

- **Discussion of Appeal of Court Ruling, Assabet Park.** AL updated the Commission regarding the ruling in the lawsuit involving Assabet Park, brought to court by Scott Ricker and his complaint that the park is non-compliant for people with disabilities. In his appeal to the court, Town Administrator John Coderre (JC) said the plan is in place in the Town's Capital Plan to make improvements with 5 years. However, the Town lost its appeal and was given one year by the State to make necessary improvements before the park would be shut down, including putting down a rubber walkway that would be easily accessible to the disabled. AL said they could go to the CPC with a request for \$100,000 to fund that walkway. Discussion followed. DP suggested fundraising for a portion of the money needed to build the park the "right way". The commission agreed we should not try and band aid the park. We should fix it the right way. What is the

point of building an accessible walkway to the 20 year old playground that you can't use if you are disabled? Let's find a way to fund a new ADA playground. Between the town, CPC and fundraising we could get it done quickly. SD suggested putting an Article on the Town Meeting Agenda requesting funding from the Town; he added that only 100 people would need to vote yes in order to approve. The Commission agreed to support John Coderre in trying to wait for the funding to redo the whole park instead of just trying put an ADA pathway around the 20 year old playground.

- Next Parks and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 5:30pm.

7:15pm—Motion to Adjourn. DP made a motion to adjourn, Tracey Cammarano seconded, all in favor.