

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
October 2, 2018**

These Minutes were unanimously approved at the Commission's November 13, 2018 meeting.

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

6:04pm—Meeting Called to Order.

6:05pm—September Minutes Approved. Dave Putnam (DP) made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting in July. Mark Awdycki (MA) seconded, all in approval.

6:06pm—Recreation Report. Allison Lane (AL) said that last Saturday's annual Scarecrow Building Day was a success. The Scarecrows are on display at Assabet Park. She reminded the Commission that the Cornhole Tournament (a fundraiser for Challenger Sports) is this coming Sunday. Next, AL said that the gym will be temporarily closed to 'active court sports' until the humidity drops and the floor evens out.

6:12pm—DPW Report. Scott Charpentier (SC) discussed the ongoing improvements to Memorial Field, which included having the infield graded and repair to the stairs. SC said that the issues of access to upper Memorial and parking have all been addressed. SC next updated the Commission regarding the Assabet Park improvements for handicap accessibility, which have also been addressed. The former walkway from the Splash Pad has been removed, loamed, and seeded; the timber at the gate opening is now flush; mulch has been added to the playground. SC issued a response to Town Council with these updates. MA: if the Town Council accepts it, it's ok? SC: Yes. Next, SC said that the Snack Shack at Memorial will be undergoing renovation in November. Students from Assabet Valley Tech will be doing the renovation, so the only cost to the Town is for supplies, paid for by Administration. DP asked "Do you supervise the construction?" SC said no, Wayne Coulson from Assabet will be. Lastly, SC said that Eagle Scouts had added a bench by the canoe launch at Ellsworth-McAfee Park.

6:33pm—Old Business.

- **CPC Lighting Project Update.** SC said that an electrical engineer visited Melican Middle School and said that the anticipated cost of \$125,000 to replace the lights was excessive and will be less than what the CPC expects. The quote from Musco was right on target. AL said that she wants to move football to Melican fields for their homefield; currently they pay to use a practice field at the high school for all home games.
- **Review of Food Truck Proposal.** AL said she was considering letting Chick-fil-A go to Ellsworth-McAfee Park on Saturdays for soccer, but decided against that after discussion with Robo and SC, who said it would be a mess because of the trash. DP asked if the Snack Shack is open. TC said yes, but just with snacks and fruit; they used to do pizza but stopped because of not meeting some criteria from the Board of Health, such as no accessible running water. TC said she thinks the food truck would be a hit for all the families who spend so much time at the park during soccer season.
- **Open Space.** AL said that we need a new Open Space liaison, since Sean McCann left the commission. No volunteers at this time.

6:33pm—New Business.

- **Drone Over Parks.** AL said she asked Kathy Dalgliesh, the Northborough Cable Access Director, to fly a drone over Northborough's parks that could be shared to social media.
- **Youth Groups and Field Maintenance Costs.** AL said that the cost of the new ballfield at Melican Middle School was approximately \$20,000. In the past, soccer and football have paid field maintenance fees at Melican with money from Best Soccer's rental going towards that also. Soccer pays the maintenance bills, due to procurement laws, and bills football for their share. However, with the improvements to the ball field, baseball now wants usage also. AL: Is it fair to ask baseball, soccer and football to each pay a 1/3 of the cost? DP: Is the usage equal, and that going forward, it should be based on usage. AL said she doesn't know if it will be because she can't get baseball's schedules until just before the

season starts. DP: Can you get an average idea of usage per month? Faith Stevens: What if they decide not to use it? DP: They should pay upfront. FS: Yes, but what if they back out? Discussion followed about renting the fields out, particularly for cricket, which the Rec Department has gotten many field requests for. The Commission decided to invite the baseball, football and soccer youth group presidents in for discussion at the November Parks and Rec meeting. AL noted that Tom Spataro is no longer basketball's president and that Paul Cacciatore will be baseball's treasurer instead of president. DP: what happens if the Town pays for the maintenance of the fields? SC said that due to procurement laws, the lowest bidder would get the work; TC noted that the quality of the work would go down if that's the case.

- **Next Meeting.** The next Parks and Rec Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13 at 6pm.

7:05pm—Motion to Adjourn. MA made a motion to adjourn, Tracey Cammarano seconded, all in favor.