

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
November 15, 2018**

These Minutes were unanimously approved at the Commission's March 26, 2019.

In attendance: David Putnam, Sean Durkin, Mark Awdycki, Tracey Cammarano, Scott Charpentier, David Robillard, Allison Lane and Michelle Cilley; **guests** Michael Flynn (NBSA President), Paul Cacciatore (NBSA Treasurer), Gary Maggiolino (NSYFCA), Kevin McCormick (NYSA President), Tim Kaelin (BOS liaison), and Brian Lanceault (NYSA Treasurer).

6:02pm—Meeting Called to Order. Dave Putnam welcomed the Guests and thanked them for coming.

6:03pm—October Minutes Approved. DP made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting in October. Tracey Cammarano (TC) seconded, all in approval.

6:04pm—DPW Report. Scott Charpentier (SC) updated the Board regarding the ongoing improvements to Memorial Field. The stairs have been repaired and the field work is done. Wheelchair access from upper Memorial has been delayed to Spring. Students from Assabet Valley Tech are ready to go with the scheduled repairs to be made to the Snack Shack at Memorial. He is also waiting to hear from Town Council regarding accessibility improvements made to Assabet Park.

6:04pm—New Business: Youth Sports Presidents Invited to Discuss Field Maintenance at Melican Middle School. Allie Lane (AL) thanked the Guests for coming and said the purpose for inviting them was to discuss how to handle maintenance of the Melican Middle School fields. Recreation paid over \$28,000 in improvements to Melican's softball and baseball fields in Spring & Fall of 2018, the softball field will be lit when the lighting project is complete. AL said she is excited about the implications that has for recreation playing opportunities for all ages. Kevin McCormick (KM) asked if the soccer field would be lit too, AL said, yes, DP added that the big baseball field will not be lit. Gary Maggiolino (GM) said that he would love to make that his team's home field instead of using ARHS on weekends for games. Discussion continued regarding Algonquin's field usage policies. AL said that her son participated in Northborough Youth Football this year and she saw what the high school did and didn't do, including having youth football only able to use the practice field for its home games and not the varsity field, which has bleachers. GM said that youth football made a significant donation to the high school towards field maintenance in 2017, hoping that we would help grant them access to the varsity field, to no avail; he would happily contribute towards use of Melican. Paul Cacciatore (PC) noted that youth baseball lets Algonquin's JV baseball team use Memorial. Sean Durkin (SD) noted that the high school charged the Applefest Committee \$2800 to 'fluff the field' after it was used for Applefest Fireworks. DP said he thinks it's time to meet with the high school's school committee. AL asked if there were any more questions or comments about field maintenance. PC said that [baseball] was thrilled with all of the improvements to Memorial and that they want utilization of all of the ball fields to be high. DP: Will you use both fields? PC: It's possible, we're working it out with Legion. DP: Are there plans to support MMS teams? PC: No. DP then asked if the fields should just be rented to residents or designate side usage. AL said that Recreation paid for the softball and baseball fields to be redone, with funds coming out of the Revolving Account; Administration at Melican requested the fields be playable and gave less than a week's notice for the repairs to be made, so that the middle school teams could use them for spring.. AL said that Recreation can't be expected to cover these expenses and keep afloat, and that the Middle School doesn't have the machinery needed to maintain those fields themselves.

Discussion continued. AL suggested renting the fields out for income and used BEST Soccer as an example for being 'perfect stewards' of fields they rent at Melican. AL also said that she is confident that she could get a steady cricket rental there too, there was agreement among the board members that that would be smart. SD suggested reviving the Men's Softball league.

PC said that maintenance issues are handled very differently than in the past, when volunteers had more time to put into the fields. He referenced Legion ball, who doesn't take care of the field properly, it needs to be adequately cleaned, graded, etc. to maintain performance. Baseball purchased a 'sand stair hydraulic drive series' to make

maintenance easier and cut back on time needed by volunteers. DP: Legion was never asked to clean? SD: That was never the expectation.

KM said that if Soccer can use the lights, it'll open up a lot of opportunities for team practices. DP asked if Soccer would be willing to contribute, KM said yes, if they are allowed usage. DP asked about Lacrosse's usage. AL said that she hasn't received field requests from Lacrosse in about 3 years.

BL explained how payment for field maintenance is currently handled. Soccer pays upfront for maintenance bills and then bills Football and Baseball for their portion. DP commented that the system is working. BL said that if Baseball is planning to use Melican, they will need to come up some suitable portion. PC said he would need time to review the budget. AL said that she can allocate use to them but needs to know in advance. PC added they also share use of the Zeh School fields, Michael Flynn (MF) said that softball used the Zeh field 90% of the season. BL said that he has a spreadsheet covering costs. PC said that Baseball wouldn't charge Soccer for practices so it would 'be a wash'. PC said that Baseball paid \$3,300 for maintenance of the Zeh field, and \$10,800 total to Veron for fertilization and irrigation, etc. DP: Why pay for Zeh maintenance and not Lincoln Street? SD: There is no irrigation at the Lincoln St field, can't put fertilizer down.

AL said that she will just go ahead with one season with the youth groups and BEST Soccer using the fields and will reach out to outside groups in the future.

Timothy Kaelin, Selectman Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, offered his assistance in any way possible.

7:42pm—Recreation Report. AL reminded the Board about a possible Parks project coming up. Arlene Marshall, long time town resident, lost her son in a hiking accident several years ago and wants to have an installation of musical instruments added to Ellsworth McAfee Park in his honor. The project was on hold in the past due to ADA issues but is now being revisited. The family will pay for the product and its' installation, possibly on the walking track and near the playground. DP: will there be noise issues? TC & SD: yes. DP added, who maintains this installation 10 years from now?

7:55pm—Motion to Adjourn. MA made a motion to adjourn, SD, all in favor. The next Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4 at 5:30pm.