

TOWN OF NEEDHAM TRUSTEES OF MEMORIAL PARK

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 – 7:00 PM – Memorial Park Building

PRESENT: John Gallelo, Chair; Mark Forbes, Vice Chair; Jim Healy, Clerk; Chuck Mangine; Bill Topham; Matt Borrelli – BOS Representative

GUESTS: Dave DiCicco (Park & Recreation Commission); and Mike Retzky (Public Facilities – Construction Division)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gallelo at 7:04 pm. A quorum was declared. The minutes of the February 8, 2017 meeting have not yet been prepared and therefore were not considered.

The vast majority of the meeting was spent on the ongoing Feasibility Study of the Park's Fieldhouse. We first addressed the PPBC meeting that occurred on February 13, attended by our "user reps", Topham and Borrelli. Topham was disappointed with the meeting, but Borrelli said the consultant had made changes to the potential "options", consistent with the Trustees' views as stated at our February 8 meeting. More specifically, some of the amenities contained in option 3 (the two team rooms) have now been included in option 1. Retzky confirmed this was the case, and also advised that a minimalist view of this project, but including the team rooms (to lower the cost as much as possible), would probably not allow for program space for DPW/Parks and Forestry. Healy said if he had to choose between the team rooms and DPW/Parks and Forestry in option 1, he would give the team rooms a higher priority. The majority of Trustees concurred.

The Trustees stated they are most thankful for all the great work the DPW and Parks and Forestry does for the Park's fields, gateway garden, parking lot and fieldhouse, but they see a renovated/reconstructed building as a facility for use by Needham's citizens as opposed to a garage/materials storage space. That being said, if the BOS want to promote a slightly expanded (more costly) building to also accommodate DPW/Parks and Forestry, the Trustees would support that effort. Topham also inquired if a small shed-type edifice might satisfy the Town's needs in this area.

Healy asked about the BOS view on these matters, and Borrelli stated he believes his colleagues are only supportive of this overall project as long as the Trustees remain proponents. Healy stated he believed the Town should be equally supportive of this project given the deplorable condition of the building, and the fact it may not be current code compliant in many areas and is not handicap accessible.

Mangine talked about all the great volunteer work that has been donated over many years to get this building up and running, and then to keep it going. He said the volunteers have done the best they could, but the current condition of the building is so poor, we now need the Town to step up and fully support this project. Topham said almost all of this volunteer work didn't cost the taxpayers any money.

The Trustees then discussed the issue of control and access. Ultimately, the Trustees voted 6-0 that they agree they will not have direct access (keys) to a renovated/reconstructed building, but they must have control over the activities and uses that occur within the building, similar to how the Park's fields are currently managed. In other words, this building will be a "Town" building but will remain within the jurisdiction of the Trustees, who will work with the Town with respect to the use of it. Borrelli advised he believes this would be acceptable to the BOS and Town Manager. DiCicco stated a policy could be drafted related to such "use", again, similar to what is currently done with respect to the Park's fields.

Mangine recounted the time the flag pole in the Memorial area broke, with the American flag lying on the ground. Mangine called the Town for immediate help and some repair monies, but was turned down – it wasn't in the budget. Mangine drove to the old Howard Johnson's, where they were erecting a number of poles. Mangine asked if he could have one of the poles, they agreed, and Chuck brought it back to the Park. Some DPW folks dug a new hole, helped Mangine and Gallelo set the pole in the ground, and Old Glory was flying once more. Just another great example of the wonderful volunteerism that has made this Park what it is today – but now we need the Town's help. Healy asked if the Town required any further input, guidance or advice from the Trustees in order for the consultant to continue with the Feasibility Study and Retzky responded in the negative.

Needham Soccer Club's Bill Fidurko was unable to attend tonight's meeting and apparently no other Soccer Club representative was able to attend (since no one showed up).

The Special Event Requests, the trash issue and Town Manager's related letter, and the Revolving Fund issue and Dave Davison's related email were all tabled until our next meeting. A Motion to Adjourn was made, seconded and approved 6-0 at 8:23 pm.

END OF MINUTES.

The next Trustees meeting is set for Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at the fieldhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

James G. Healy, Trustee and Clerk