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**TOWN OF MEDWAY**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**PARKS COMMISSION**

**APPROVED 8/28/2020**

Board of Park Commissioners Meeting  
July 29, 2020  
Remote Meeting Via Zoom

**In attendance:**

Park Commissioners: Debi Rossi, Sean Murphy and John Farrell  
Others: Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation, David D'Amico, Public Works Director, Jeff Parcels, Director of Athletics Resident Tim Harris and Resident Jim Coyl

Chairman Rossi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Upon a motion by Ms. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the June 24<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. The motion carried.**

**VFW/Baseball Field:**

Mr. Farrell explained the VFW field is in bad shape. He wanted to get it on the radar and stated the section of land beyond the right field could be used for flag football, soccer, etc. to turn it into more of a complex in the future. Mr. D'Amico stated it is a couple years out on the five-year capital plan with \$150,000 reserved. The amount is to rebuild the field to make it better, but keep it the same footprint.

Mr. Murphy stated it is not that the high school baseball diamond has been neglected, but it was a disaster when it was built and money has gone in to improve it. He went on to say turf and lights are needed. Mr. Farrell spoke about the type of fence that will help to optimize the use of the field. Ms. Rossi asked Mr. Parcels where he would like to have a baseball field. Mr. Parcels stated he walked the field with Ms. Harrington and a couple others to try to figure out how to utilize the space and see what is best for all programs. The fence is rough, has holes and is droopy. He commented putting a permanent fence would do an injustice to all other programs. If the field is moved, two rectangles could be kept when things are readjusted. Mr. Parcels didn't see a huge necessity for lights at the high school. Mr. Parcels stated after 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. the high school teams are losing the fields to town leagues. All high school games are wrapped up by 6:00 p.m. with the exception of some senior nights. Mr. Parcels stated the baseball field at the high school would be third in line for remodel as the track is cracking all over

and tennis courts have some huge craters on that surface. The thought of a turf baseball field would be great, but as far as need, baseball is third in line for the high school. Mr. Farrell commented this would be three to four years down the road along with finding a funder.

There was a discussion about the turf field at Hanlon and most of the money being spent on resurfacing, but not helping the underlying problem.

Mr. Pelletier, Deputy Director of Public Works is working on the final submission of a plan and it does include the track and tennis courts. Mr. D'Amico commented he is in the process of hiring someone to do a review of the Pickleball court, a relocation or rebuild of the field at the middle school and the Center Street softball field. Ms. Harrington is meeting with Selectman Rick D'Innocenzo on Saturday to discuss locations for the pickleball court.

There was a brief discussion of the great potential the VFW could have in the future as a community center and multi purpose field.

### **North Street Playground:**

Ms. Rossi thanked Mr. Harris for attending the meeting. Ms. Rossi took a look at the playground and stated it has a basketball court, playground and some green space. Mr. Harris stated Buzz Johnson was an icon in the town. He was a hero and true Patriot for the country from his military service, work with refugees after his service and his work with the town. Mr. Harris, Mr. Coyl and a group of other residents would like to recognize Mr. Johnson's tremendous service over the years. The park on North Street does not have a name. Buzz went to school there in his younger days and he and his wife Jeanne were members of the church across the street. The proposed design includes a flagpole, seating area and plantings and trees to memorialize Mr. Johnson's service. The Board reviewed preliminary sketches of the design, which includes a flag in the middle and benches around it. There will be electricity to illuminate the flag in the evening and a PA system for speeches. The memorial will either be located behind the playground where there is a flat location in the center or in the left hand corner in front of the existing basketball court. The playground in the park was named after Lillian Hodgson and Mr. Harris proposed putting a sign or plaque as a rededication. No funds are needed from the town for this project. The Board can give the blessing and then the request will move on to the Selectmen.

**Upon a motion by Ms. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to rename the North Street Park Lt. Col. Harry "Buzz" Johnson, Jr. and rededicate the playground to Lillian Hodgson. On discussion, Mr. Murphy asked the estimated cost. The preliminary budget is \$40,000, but it will depend on the material selections. No funds are needed from the town for this project. The motion carried.**

### **Fall Fields:**

Mr. Parcels participated in a Zoom call with MIAA and they were hoping to have information by early next week. Once the Department of Education and the State come out with a recommendation for youth sports, MIAA will take that information and come out with their own guidelines for school sports and bring that to school districts and leagues. September 14<sup>th</sup> is the projected start date for practices. Mr. Parcels heard Massachusetts is delaying the start of the school year for students by 10 days. If there is a sports season, it may not start until the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Parcels commented there are rumors where different sports can start at different times pending the go ahead and there are also models with no sports until January. Captain's practices are not allowed per MIAA and per Medway Public Schools. Mr. Parcels stated it is

important for the kids to get back to some normalcy and he believed MIAA wants to have a season, but the health and safety of all involved is top priority. He also spoke about the difficulty of filling all requirements for officials because the majority of them are older. Mr. Parcels has been in touch with Ms. Harrington each week and knows the importance of that.

There was a discussion about not seeing EEE in counties where there is a mosquito treatment protocol.

Ms. Harrington stated flag football still owes a balance. Mr. Farrell stated Eastern MA Youth Flag Football will run a clinic two days a week for two hours for two weeks. He spoke about the protocols for football.

### **Fall Fields:**

All users have spoken with Ms. Harrington and Health Director Beth Hallel. The Board was fine with Ms. Harrington doing what she can with the fall schedule.

### **Summer update:**

The Board gave Ms. Harrington autonomy to do the best she can for August. Ms. Harrington stated camp starts next week and the numbers are under the 30-person maximum. If a camper tests positive for Covid-19, camp will be shut down.

### **Director's Update:**

Ms. Harrington stated there have been three great summer concerts. Some attendees stay in their cars at Oakland, some tailgate and some go on to the fields. The Lions sponsored a paddle day and paddle night last Saturday. Ms. Harrington briefly mentioned past events such as Wild Wednesdays, soccer and STEM camps and Lego animation.

Goldstar Lacrosse was supposed to have tournament in August and proposed a round robin over two days, with 40-minute scrimmages. There will not be any vendors or spectators. There was talk about moving baseball to Idylbrook.

Step By Step Studio of Dance is set for their recital at Oakland on August 8<sup>th</sup>. They asked Ms. Harrington if they need a police detail. The Board agreed that question should be directed to the police department. The Cub Scouts will be using Choate Park on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, but not the entire park.

Ms. Rossi stated the Charter for Medway has been changed and two more members will be added to the Parks Commission. There will be a total of five members, three elected and two appointed. The Board of Selectmen has authority over the appointments. At the upcoming Selectmen's meeting, residents Lyle Core and Joanne Williams will be present requesting to be appointed. Ms. Rossi stated if Mr. Core and Ms. Williams join at the next meeting it would be good to talk about liaison assignments.

The turf fields have been sanitized. Superintendent D'Amico will speak with the Facilities Director Jim Kane about sanitizing the rest of the facility and will ask the Board of Health if the turf fields need to be sanitized more than once.

**Upon a motion by Ms. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the remote meeting via Zoom at 8:10 p.m. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa M. Pacella, Night Board Secretary