



Medway Town Hall
155 Village Street
Medway, MA 02053
Telephone (508) 533-3275

TOWN OF MEDWAY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PARKS COMMISSION

APPROVED 1/25/2023

Town of Medway
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
November 30, 2022 – 6:30 PM
Sanford Hall – Medway Town Hall

Park Commissioners: Debi Rossi, John Farrell, Sean Murphy, Rick D’Innocenzo

Absent: Lyle Core

Others: Julie Harrington, Marques Crosby, Karen Niemczyk, Cyndy Ellis, Andrea Moores, Chris Billings, Tara Rice, Susan Dietrich, Peter Pelletier

Call to Order: At 6:30PM, Ms. Rossi called the meeting to order.

Public Comments: There were none at this time.

1. Approval of Minutes: August 24, 2022 – to be discussed at end of the meeting

2. Kwanzaa Kickoff and Kinara lighting at Choate – discussion/vote

Marques Crosby – Last year, there was a candle holder (kinara) put in Choate near road. 15-20 people there for 20 minutes, they had a small ceremony explaining the holiday and customs and lit first candle. Looking to have a similar 20-minute event on 12/26 at 5:00 pm. DPW going to bring the kinara to the park tomorrow (12/1), similar location as last year. Mr. Crosby (or representative) will go back each of 6 nights to light other candles with no event. No food will be served.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to approve Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

3. Karen Niemczyk, Medway Community Education Summer 2023 Fields requests

Ms. Niemczyk doesn’t know 100% what they are offering except for summer adventure camp for 7 weeks. She provided a sheet with other sports camps and discussed fields to be used. Ms. Harrington and Ms. Rossi discussed that they would need to be flexible with locations, for example if turf gets too hot, may have to shut down fields. There were some instances requiring changes last year and Ms. Harrington and Niemczyk agreed that they were able to work well

together to relocate. Ms. Harrington confirmed that there is no major maintenance this summer will interrupt these programs. Ms. Rossi ok with charging same fees as last year, \$7,500 for Summer Adventures and for weekly camps and programs will be charged \$6.00 per participant.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi made motion to approve fees and Mr. Murphy seconded this motion which passed unanimously 4-0

4. Nokona Baseball – Anchor tenant VFW – discussion

Chris Billings – Nokona Baseball – had conversations pre-covid about an agreement with the town to become an anchor tenant, now asking about revisiting. Mr. Farrell said that the field is currently un-playable, needs to be totally leveled, backstop to be replaced, so do the dugouts. Outfield is better, but it's still uneven. Just want to be realistic.

Mr. Billings said that he would be looking to start using the field in 2024, willing to assist with some capital expenses. His purpose for attending tonight is to say he is somewhat interested. Mr. Billings would guarantee a minimum number of hours as partial anchor tenant. Ms. Rossi doesn't feel that Nokona would have to fund all of it. She asked him to come up with the vision, but she isn't sure what the town plans to do with property, could be expanded to a huge municipal field or could be changed to anything. She would be curious to know what he thinks after taking a closer look. Ms. Rossi would like Nokona to get some rough estimates for update for 2024 to replace backstop, build dugouts, and get it playable. Town won't do anything in next 5 years. Mr. Murphy reiterated that Mr. Billings should provide, and plan and Parks can determine if they should invest. It could be a risk for Mr. Billings to invest and not know what would happen after 5 yrs. Mr. Billings gave an example for fees. In Ashland they pay \$40/hr. for fields with no lights. Will give some examples of 3 options for financing.

5. Pride Flags/Celebration 2023 – Friday, June 2nd at Choate Park – discussion/approval

Andrea Moores and Cindy Ellis attended on behalf of this event.

Last year they did the flag raising ceremony on a Saturday, but it conflicted with the fishing derby, so this year they are proposing Friday evening, June 2, thinking 4-6 or 7 or 5-7 or 8. Ms. Rossi thanked them for moving from Saturday, as the park too busy on a Saturday. They are happy to have the event. Pride month is June and June 1 is kick-off, so don't want to wait until middle of the month. This is the same weekend as HS graduation, and they are working with group in the high school & middle school to approve the date so that their pride groups can attend. The most significant part of the event is raising the flags and then go back to pavilion for events. Planning committee to start meeting in January. Not planning on food, perhaps the ice cream truck again, but there will be garbage cans there for fishing derby next day. Mr. Pelletier mentioned that this will be overtime for DPW. They have half days on summer Fridays, and it is a busy week for staff with graduations. He said they will make it work, important to share the timing with him after their Jan meeting. Ms. Rossi asked please leave park the way they found it.

VOTE: Mr. D'Innocenzo offered a motion to approve the event and Mr. Farrell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

6. NEFC and March Tournaments – discussion/vote

The contact at NEFC requested March 17-19, 24-26 are dates he wanted but other groups asked too. He could maybe modify to later weekend but would have to share with HS and it conflicts with start of NEFC season. Another group already asked for March 3-5, NEFC can't do 3/10 but maybe March 31-April 1. Ms. Rossi brought up the concern that NEFC canceled last minute last year. Ms. Harrington noted that they always pay on time.

VOTE: Mr. Murphy offered a motion to give March 17 & 24 weekends to NEFC and if there is snow, they pay 50% of snow removal cost, Mr. Farrell seconded this motion which passed with a Vote 3-1 (Ms. Rossi no)

7. Events approval parks/fields: Tinkergarten winter classes, Medway Youth Softball tournament, Relay for Life

Ms. Harrington noted that Medway Youth Softball couldn't attend the meeting tonight.

Tinkergarten – Tara Rice from Tinkergarten currently holds outdoor courses at Choate and Oakland parks. Ms. Rice indicated; she was attending for 2 reasons:

- 1) Lantern walk, 10th year, looking for permission, 12/4 4:00 pm. They have 30 families registered so far. There will be no food brought in. The fall season classes made mason jar lanterns, students are 18 mo to 8 yr. The event starts with the group gathered to discuss seasons, sing songs, light lantern and walk around ponds, 30-45 minutes. Ms. Harrington confirmed that there are no other events on Sunday, 12/4

VOTE: Mr. Farrell offered a motion to approve the event, Mr. Rick D'Innocenzo seconded this motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

- 2) Winter Classes – Ms. Rice proposed the scheduled for the winter session to begin in January, Monday & Saturday, and Thurs for make-ups. Winter term is January 19, Thurs, Sat and Monday morning, each class lasts 9 weeks, ends around March. Fee schedule \$6 per person per class.

VOTE: Ms. Rossi offered a motion to approve the winter schedule at the same rate, Mr. Farrell seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0

Relay for Life – Event begins June 9 and is done morning of 10th. Use Middle School track. In the past, sand for luminaries has been donated and left in a pile after the event. Ms. Rossi asked Ms. Harrington to speak with event coordinator about find a way to not leave pile of sand after event.

VOTE: Mr. Farrell offered a motion to use track for Relay for Life on June 9 & 10 without left over sand, Mr. Murphy seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

8. 2022 FYE Budget: Discuss/vote to move funds to Field Stabilization Account

Ms. Rossi suggested that this not be discussed since all members not present. Need to get graphs organized to go to Finance Committee to present request for fund and explain that revenue was down due to COVID and EEE due to facilities being closed. Ms. Rossi did clarify that the reason that the electric bill at VFW was so high was because it included charges from the Middle School. This will be broken out going forward and reflected on the next bill.

9. SLA Tri Board Meeting review: Discussion/Vote

Ms. Rossi and Mr. D'Innocenzo attended. Ms. Rossi said that the meeting went well, whole select board and school committee were there. She sent a copy of the report to committee, few modifications, mostly for repeats although after reviewing Ms. Rossi and Ms. Dietrich concluded that it was not necessarily the final report. Mr. Pelletier has not seen this version of the report and had some questions related to responsibilities for maintenance of parking lots, i.e drainage issues vs. putting new lines, should it be DPW and not schools. Agreed with Ms. Dietrich that some issues will be decided at the time they come up. Mr. Pelletier questioned whether grooming turf fields 4x a year appropriate, it should be 2 deep ones and 2 general maintenance

ones. Needs to be clarified. Mr. Pelletier also needs to confirm where DPW can leave equipment on school property. He will meet with Patrick at the school dept. Ms. Rossi will go back to Mr. Boynton with DPW questions.

VOTE: Mr. Farrell offered a motion to approve SLA Agreement, Mr. Murphy seconded this motion which passed unanimously, 4-0

10. Multisport Court at Choate: update

Ms. Rossi saw 3 different renditions for the proposed multisport courts. For the first option, sun is a factor, and the location impedes the road to the park exit. The 2nd option is near the middle of field, up against walkway from playground to back of Cassidy, up against stone wall. 3rd one is open-ended, i.e. come up with another idea. Parks Dept paid for options presented and needs to pick an option and then get price quotes. 2nd option impact Parks facilities the least. Needs to consider individual whose property abuts location. Is there a setback required?

VOTE: Mr. Farrell offered a motion to move forward with 2nd proposal pending confirmation of setback rules, Ms. Harrington to get price quote. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.

11. Trash at Choate: update

Ms. Rossi went to see Board of Health after writing a letter responding to complaints. They still can't understand why Parks removed trash can without consulting them. Because there was so much trash in the park, Parks Commission initially tried to add cans, but then there was more trash, so took them away. Found it was getting better. In the spring meeting with Health Dept again to let them know Parks is keeping an eye on it and what other steps they are taking to improve trash situation.

12. Fall Fields update

Fields are done, per Ms. Harrington after the tournament this weekend with FC Stars.

13. Chair update

Ms. Rossi will get finances and projections together to discuss at next meeting and come up with strategy to meet with finance committee.

14. Director's update

Light fights – Ms. Harrington asked for assistance in voting, due Fri, 12/9, categories best use of lights, overall design, holiday spirit, she will send out the map.

Winter brochure done; registration is open.

Starting the summer brochure

Erin, assistant is no longer with Town.

Will have to start looking at spring fields in January.

Motion to Adjourn: At 8:46 PM, Ms. Rossi offered a motion to adjourn. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 4-0.

Future Park Meeting Dates: January 25, 2023

Respectfully submitted by,
Marianne Boynton, Recording Secretary
Commonwealth of Massachusetts