

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Town of Medway  
Board of Parks Commissioners Meeting  
March 23, 2022  
6:30PM - Medway Senior Center

***Commissioners Present:*** Debi Rossi, John Farrell, and Sean Murphy

***Commissioners Absent:*** Lyle Core and Richard D’Innocenzo

***Community Members Present:*** Dan Shea, Susan Dietrich, Gail Hachenburg, Jordan Warnick, Julie Harrington, Sean Harrington, Paul Mahoney, Nikunj Patel, Hardik Patel, Aniruddh Patel, and Glenn Johnson

**Call to Order:** Ms. Rossi called the meeting to order at 6:40PM.

**Public Comments:** Mr. Patel was present to introduce himself and his club regarding cricket field availability. He noted that he is from a different group than the one that has previously been present at Parks meetings.

**1. Approval of Minutes: March 3, 2022**

**VOTE:** Mr. Farrell offered a motion to accept the 3/2/22 minutes as amended. Mr. Murphy seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 3-0.

**2. Cricket Update**

Mr. Patel clarified that there are two different cricket clubs in Medway. He clarified that both teams are aware of each other’s presence, but have not had any conflicts of interest until now. They wished to partner with the other cricket team in order to share access to the town fields. The team also noted the potential for them to share costs. The team also noted that this sport is rapidly growing, so they would like to have a “home” field in Medway.

Mr. Murphy suggested that the team use the McGovern fields. The team mentioned the specific measurements of a field that are conducive to the sport; the commissioners noted that there is no field in Medway that fits this description.

The team noted that their season is the first weekend of May through the second weekend of September.

Mr. Murphy noted using the Idylbrook fields beginning in June, so that it does not conflict with town sports usage.

Ms. Rossi suggested using the Oakland fields, as they are relatively available in the summer, beginning in mid-June through Labor Day.

Mr. Murphy shared that he does not have an issue with it as long as the groups that already utilize these spaces have no conflicts.

Ms. Rossi shared that the commission will look at Idylbrook's schedule, discuss how the town of Wrentham handles their cricket field usages, and clarify what is necessary regarding a Request for Proposals(RFP).

### **3. Wall at Choate Discussion**

Ms. Hachenburg and Mr. Warnick were present on behalf of the Medway Cultural Council.

Ms. Rossi noted that there is an existing issue with the existing wall near the peace garden at Choate. She noted that it is not movable, but suggested painting it as an alternative.

Ms. Hachenburg and Mr. Warnick shared that the Select Board offered the suggestion to turn the wall into a contemplative painting that would pair nicely with the existing peace garden. The other side of the wall could be more whimsical and artistic.

Ms. Hachenburg shared that an artist has already shared a general plan with her that she could present to Parks, then the Select Board.

Mr. Farrell noted that the commissioners have been in ongoing discussions about allowing high school students to design one of the sides of the wall; Ms. Rossi agreed, noting that she did not foresee giving both sides of the wall to the same group or artist.

Mr. Warnick noted that the artist in question has provided general projections and ideas for preparation, painting, and preservation, particularly in regard to graffiti.

Ms. Rossi inquired about cost, as the Board is not positioned to pay for it. Ms. Hachenburg noted that the Select Board has offered to finance this project. Ms. Hachenburg noted that she is open to high school students doing it, but that requires a certain level of expertise, as well as supervision.

Mr. Harrington shared that he was unclear whether or not the sealing process of the wall would be under the purview of the DPW; he did not believe they had funds set aside for that project.

Ms. Rossi noted the importance of the involved families to have a say in the design of the wall that faces the peace garden. Mr. Warnick agreed with this approach.

Mr. Farrell shared that he is not opposed to this project, especially if the Parks commissioners are not paying for it.

Mr. Murphy raised concerns about the artist having to work alongside the students. Ms. Hachenburg suggested facilitating a conversation between the artist, the students, and the families.

Mr. Mahoney advocated on behalf of the parents involved with the peace garden. He expressed that the current design is quite tasteful and beautiful; he raised potential concerns about the

involved families agreeing with the new idea. He also noted that a landscape artist already has ideas for the space.

At Ms. Rossi's request, Mr. Mahoney agreed to follow up with the involved families regarding their opinions and preferences.

Ms. Hachenburg noted that the approximate cost of their artist is \$7,200. Ms. Rossi stated that she will follow up with the Select Board regarding coverage of this cost.

The Parks commissioners also noted concerns about ensuring that the image in question is not too vibrant; they suggested that it be more neutral and appropriately subdued.

Ms. Hachenburg also noted that the Cultural Council is donating a bench to the peace garden via the DPW.

Ms. Rossi noted that she will reach out to the artist and speak to the Select Board prior to the next Parks meeting.

#### **4. Choate Basketball Court**

Ms. Rossi asked the Community Preservation Committee for CPA funds regarding the property at the Choate basketball court behind the Ide house. She emphasized the need to frame it as a multipurpose facility in order for it to be considered seriously.

Ms. Rossi also noted that there is grant money for an outdoor fitness center.

Mr. Harrington agreed to look into the approximate cost of a project such as this.

Mr. Farrell also expressed concerns about if blasting might be necessary, especially given its proximity to historically significant property.

#### **5. Five year Fields and Facilities plan**

Ms. Harrington expressed the need to generate \$1.5 million to handle the track and Hanlon field projects. She noted that these are currently on the capital plan.

Ms. Rossi suggested not putting any money into the revolving account.

Mr. Farrell suggested finding out the exact quote for a track in order to proceed in an informed manner. He suggested involving an engineer in the process.

The Board agreed that the turf field at Hanlon is the priority.

Mr. Farrell identified next spring's town meeting as a potential time to present the idea and seek funds. He felt that seeking an engineer this fall would be realistic.

## **6. Advertising Policy**

Ms. Rossi shared that she used the school's existing advertising policy as a template and rephrased it to be reflective of Medway Parks and Recreation. She plans to send it to Ms. Harrington and Ms. Potter for their review.

Ms. Dietrich noted the importance of noting certain language when the advertising takes place on school grounds; the school policies govern those areas. She noted that this language is more protective as a result of its inclusive language.

## **7. Spring Fields Update**

Ms. Harrington shared that the spring season is now underway and that multiple tournaments have already taken place.

Mr. Murphy expressed concerns about renting fields to teams that are not able to follow through on their financial commitments to the town. He noted that the Board's current balance is approximately \$400,000; he noted that ensuring follow-through on field rentals is a strong way to increase the Board's existing funds.

## **8. Chair update**

Ms. Rossi noted that the Master Plan Committee will be joining an upcoming Parks meeting to update the commissioners on their process. The date for this has yet to be determined; Ms. Rossi mentioned that it might be via Zoom.

Ms. Rossi also noted that they will be having a forum prior to the next Parks meeting. The forum is on April 5. She encouraged participation of all commissioners in the Master Plan's feedback-gathering process.

Ms. Rossi also noted a concern regarding permits for the parks. She mentioned the need to get on the Select Board's agenda in the near future.

## **9. Director update**

Ms. Harrington noted that summer camp is completely sold out. She also noted that the Select Board has approved hiring someone to assist her in her role.

Mr. Johnson was present to share that he recently took out papers to join the Board. He noted his background in grass maintenance, fertilization. He also shared that he has three children in Medway schools and is seeking town involvement.

Mr. Farrell noted the exceptional work of the DPW in clearing the baseball fields in time for the season.

**Motion to Adjourn:** At 8:54PM, Mr. Murphy offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Farrell seconded this motion, which passed unanimously. VOTE: 3-0.