



Medway Town Hall  
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# TOWN OF MEDWAY

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

### PARKS COMMISSION

**APPROVED 5/29/2024**

Town of Medway  
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting  
May 8, 2024 – 6:30 PM  
Medway Senior Center  
76 Oakland Street

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

**Absent:**

**Others:** Julie Harrington Director of Parks & Recreation  
Beate Hait, Walk’n Mass Volks Sport Club  
Steve Carew, Parks Dept  
Tracy Stewart

#### **1. Approval of Minutes: March 27, 2024**

**Mr. D’Innocenzo made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with corrections. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.**

#### **2. Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club Walk at Choate Park – Discussion/Vote**

Beate Hait represented the organization, a non-profit walking club that holds day events in MA and RI. They are looking to have a picnic walk in Choate Park on a Saturday in August, approx. 8:00-2:00. They would use the trails in Choate Park and near the high school. They expect 40-60 people. Ms. Rossi expressed concern about parking. Ms. Hait said they would have about 20 cars and would be there early. She also suggested that they use parking at the fields and Mr. Farrell noted that summer baseball would be done. Ms. Hait confirmed that someone from their organization would be at the park the whole time. The public will be invited to participate; fee is \$4.00. Ms. Harrington suggested that they give the police a heads up.

**Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the picnic walk at Choate Park on a Saturday in August. Ms. Hait to advise which date. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.**

#### **3. Choate Park Event - Believe Walk**

This would be a fundraiser for Dup15q syndrome. It is a family friendly event with face painting and an ice cream truck. Participants will walk on the trails. They are asking to use Choate Park

on September 28 from 10:00-2:00. There will be parking available at the baseball field. Mr. Core reminded Ms. Harrington that they will need permits for the ice cream truck. Ms. Rossi requested a heads-up on their expected numbers so that they can work out any parking conflicts. Thayer is reserved on that date, so they may not park there. Ms. Rossi is concerned about parking, she noted that Cassidy might be the only option or maybe block off some of Field 4, although Ms. Harrington has some programming there. Ms. Rossi would like to ask for more information about the event and expected number. Mr. Core suggested they approve the date and then work out the parking as the dates get closer.

**Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the Dup15q syndrome walk at Choate Park on Saturday September 28 with the getting permits for food trucks and further parking discussions. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.**

#### **4. Temporary Fence for Lamson Field - Discussion**

Softball is the only TVL field without outfield fencing. Jeff Parcels said he had a new temporary fence previously purchased for a grass field, but not used. It just needs a base for it that works with turf. It is being suggested that they try it for the playoffs, noting that the regular season ends around May 25. Mr. Farrell will investigate the pricing and availability for getting a base and perhaps trying it for the last regular season game. Mr. Carew noted that at the baseball field the DPW staff has been moving the fence and they thought that the teams would be doing that. Mr. Farrell said that the only way this will be allowed for softball is if the teams move it after each game, it will not be DPW's responsibility. Mr. Carew asked about storage and Mr. Farrell noted that it would be stored in the dugouts. Mr. Core noted that other sports use those dugouts. They will need to speak with Mr. Parcels about alternate storage options in the school.

**Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve purchasing a base for the temporary fence for the softball field for up to \$1,000. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.**

#### **5. HS Baseball Field Fencing – Discussion**

Ms. Harrington noted that they have quotes, but there is no money in capital. Ms. Rossi noted that it could come out of a field fund and she would discuss it with Carol Pratt. Mr. Farrell met with Jeff Parcels on Monday and was told that the positioning of the fence will not impact cross country, Mr. Carew noted that he had been told that the fence might be in the way of the cross-country route. Mr. Carew noted that for ambulance access the gate should be 10 feet and the current quote is for an 8-foot gate. The current quotes range from \$12,925-\$13,257 with an 8-foot gate. Mr. Carew thinks extending to a 10-foot gate would add another \$300. These quotes do not include the yellow cap for the top of chain link. Mr. Carew noted that they would also need to install a warning track. Mr. Farrell suggested that the warning track could be installed later, but Mr. Carew thought that that would be extra work to add it after the fence is installed. Mr. Carew did not have a quote for installing a warning track, perhaps \$2,500-5,000 if it is subbed out. There is currently no warning track in any parts of the field. Ms. Rossi suggested that we get more quotes to be able to approve a plan. Mr. Core suggested that if this is not happening until the fall, we should put together a whole plan to determine the potential of moving the backstop. Mr. Carew suggested we might get better pricing to do everything at once.

Mr. Carew notified the group that there are 2 potential irrigation issues, there may be 2 wells out at the middle school, it could cost up to \$14,000 to repair. Mr. Farrell noted that the back stop for the warmup pitching area is needed asap. Mr. Carew needs to get a separate price but

thinks it can be installed within a few weeks. Mr. Carew noted that the nets were put on the batting cages today.

#### **6. Parks & Rec comment for Town Meeting – Discussion/Vote**

Ms. Rossi said there is a warrant article for the Hanlon Track & Field project. She offered to attend the meeting to announce their commitment to safety and that they have provided funding from the field stabilization account towards the project.

**Ms. Rossi made a motion confirming that she will represent Parks & Recreation at the Select Board meeting. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.**

#### **7. Trash Cans at Choate Park - Discussion**

Ms. Harrington added this to the agenda. There are still some complaints about trash in the park. Mr. Carew noted that there is less trash, but it is not limited to trash areas, it's more spread out and time consuming to clean up. There are trash cans on some trails and in Cassidy. Mr. Carew thinks that carry in and carry out works better than having the barrels. Mr. Core suggested that we put a reminder on social media.

#### **8. Field Rates: RBI Summer rental, Adult Baseball League**

Ms. Harrington said that RBI baseball is asking that they reconsider the fee for field rentals for their 3-day camp in June. The new approved rate was \$75 per hour per field and they use 3 fields. RBI is asking for \$75 per hour for the complex (for all 3 fields). Mr. Farrell noted that no one else uses the fields during this time. Mr. Murphy wants to know how many campers there are and what they are charging. Ms. Rossi thinks that the revised fees are ok since fees were raised across the board. If RBI can show a hardship, the price can be reconsidered.

**The Adult baseball league has a team that is only using a field for 3 Sundays. They are looking for a per game fee. Mr. Farrell suggested \$150 per game. Ms. Rossi agreed as it is similar to \$75/hour.**

Mr. Farrell made a motion to charge the adult baseball league \$150 per game for 3 Sundays. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.

#### **9. Fundraising at Choate Park: Roots in Nature 4H club**

Ms. Harrington said the group wants to sell raffle tickets at Choate Park. There was concern that if they allowed this group to fundraise then other groups would start asking. Members agreed that they did not want to allow it and that there are other places in town that are better locations for fundraising.

#### **10. Future Field Scheduling with High School Athletic Games – Discussion**

Ms. Harrington added this to the agenda to start to look ahead to come up with possible solutions for future conflicts. There have been an increased number of occurrences with high school games conflicting with field assignments for other sports. Mr. Farrell noted that the issue is not necessarily that the games are starting later, it's because of transportation and officiating availability. Jeff Parcels suggested that the school teams have the fields until 6:30. Dan Shea suggested that when there is a home softball game, they not schedule anything before 6:30. The schedule is set well in advance, but games are often rescheduled due to weather. Some towns are starting school later and their games will start later. This will continue to be monitored and discussed when scheduling field in the fall.

### **11. NEFC – March tournament payment - Discussion**

Ms. Harrington noted that they have not paid any of their bill. There is some discrepancy between when they said they were off the field and cameras showing that they were on the fields. She missed a call from them today. She has already met them in the middle on a few charges. Mr. Murphy suggested that she ask them what they are looking for.

### **12. Spring/Summer Field schedule update**

Mr. Shea is looking for one weeknight in the summer for pick up soccer. Ms. Harrington will look at the schedule and work with him to offer field options.

Mr. Carew is asking to shut down the MS practice field at end of the fall season and keep it offline until the spring. This was done at the Charland field and it helped improve the field quality.

### **13. Chair update**

none

### **14. Director's update**

Ms. Harrington noted that the fishing derby is scheduled on June 1. She would like to add a discussion of the School Street playground to a future agenda. Ms. Rossi noted that the park off of Winthrop & Partridge streets is old and the one of North Street has issues too. Mr. Carew agreed.

### **Adjourn:**

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion.

Approved in a unanimous vote.

### **Future Meetings:**

May 29, 2024

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