



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

# TOWN OF MEDWAY

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

### PARKS COMMISSION

**APPROVED 3/27/2024**

Town of Medway  
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting  
February 28, 2024 – 6:30 PM  
Sanford Hall – Medway Town Hall

**Park Commissioners:** Debi Rossi, Sean Murphy, Lyle Core, John Farrell

**Absent:** Rick D'Innocenzo

**Others:** Julie Harrington Director of Parks & Recreation  
Rob Pearl, Scoreboard Enterprises  
Kailene Simone, School Committee Liason  
Dan Shea, Medway youth soccer  
John Cloutier, Medway youth lacrosse  
Erin Mallette, Animal Control

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

**Public Comments:** None

#### **Other Business:**

##### **1. Approval of Minutes: January 31, 2024**

Ms. Rossi noted a few minor corrections and gave to Ms. Boynton. In addition, Ms. Rossi asked members to re-read the community education section and all agreed that it was ok as written.

**Mr. Core made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with corrections from January 31, 2024. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

##### **2. Dog Policy Choate Park – Discussion/Vote**

Ms. Harrington explained that the bylaws were changed to allow dogs on the trails, however people must walk through some of the parks and/or schools to get to the trails. Formerly, dogs were not allowed anywhere (trails, schools, parks) so the Parks Dept. could not supersede that and amend the dog policy. The new bylaws permit dogs, provided they are properly restrained, i.e. on a leash. Mr. Farrell noted that when you come out of the trail, you must walk through the

back grass fields or the other side behind Lamson. There are also trails that come out near Oakland and Idlbrook. Ms. Harrington suggested that dogs be allowed on the walking paths and trails only and must be on a leash. Dogs should still not be allowed on playgrounds or in the pavilion. Ms. Mallette had concerns about people being injured. There are signs at the park that would have to be removed and replaced with signs that dogs are allowed only on the walking paths and trails only. All agreed that there should be no dogs allowed in any playgrounds, pavilion, or fields.

Ms. Rossi will draft a policy and send it around to members to be voted on at next meeting. Ms. Harrington will ask Mr. Pellitier at DPW about the cost of signs. Ms. Mallette is now informed of what to enforce.

### **3. Hanlon Field Scoreboard Replacement – Discussion**

Rob Pearl – Scoreboard Enterprises

Mr. Pearl noted that based on the way Hanlon is currently set up, a newer version of a similar type of score board can use the same structure and power source. If they want a video board, they will need a new power source. There is a transformer behind the bleachers, but new conduits would have to be installed. He distributed a brochure with some options as well as some photos of boards recently installed at local schools. The newer video scoreboards can be set up as a scoreboard and as a TV, but MIAA rules do not allow for replay. It can also be used for movie nights, as anything on a laptop can be projected onto the screen. It could also be used to live-stream graduation. Mr. Pearl noted that some schools have the students do some of the design and they run the board during the games. The School Committee and Parks Dept have to collaborate. This can translate into skills that they can use at a college, as it is the same technology for the boards. Ads can be run on the boards, which is a good way to attract sponsors and add revenue. Mr. Pearl explained that they can replace what's currently there for about \$25,000, if they upgrade to a larger video board, it would be \$100-200k for 18 foot or \$200-300,000 for 25 feet, however they would need a whole new structure to support it a larger scoreboard. The current structure cannot support anything larger. Mr. Pearl is willing to arrange for members to visit a school that recently installed a new scoreboard. Ms. Simon asked about the work that would be involved in updating the cables; Ms. Harrington reminded her that they are digging up Hanlon this summer, so it would be easy to run the conduits for future needs. Ms. Simon also asked if the board could show the games etc. so people who are sitting further away can still see. Mr. Pearl indicated that it would. Ms. Simon asked whether there would be additional electrical costs. Mr. Pearl is not sure but is going to look into it and get back to her. Ms. Rossi asked about the cost of the cables. Mr. Pearl responded that they would coordinate with whoever is doing the construction at the field. Mr. Murphy asked whether there was any pre-work that could be done during the summer construction that would save on costs whenever they decide to add a new scoreboard. Mr. Pearl suggested that their company could provide some plans to the construction company to put the footings and beams in as part of the reconstruction to save time and money down the road. His company is on the MAGC approved vendor list. Mr. Farrell asked about the cost to replace the current baseball scoreboard. Mr. Pearl said it would depend on the size.

#### **4. Lacrosse Storage North Field - Discussion/Vote**

Mr. Cloutier from Medway Lacrosse passed out pictures and information about the proposed storage units. Ms. Rossi, Ms. Harrington, Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Parcels went out to the site. There were 4 options presented. Option 2 is kind of close to the light tower, so it be hard to get a truck in to service the tower. Option 4 might be too intrusive to the walking trail. Mr. Cloutier stated that they will store any equipment that won't get moldy, i.e. goals, plastic equipment. Ms. Harrington hasn't heard back from the person from the Conservation department and suggests that we make a recommendation to present when the Conservation person gets back. Mr. Murphy asked what color it is and Mr. Cloutier responded that it's white. Mr. Murphy asked if it could be painted green or wrapped, and Mr. Cloutier didn't think so because it is a rental unit. It can be moved if there is an event or other reasons. Mr. Murphy asked about renting for only in season. Mr. Cloutier said they preferred to have it all year, but definitely during the season. The Lacrosse board has approved the rental cost.

Mr. Farrell does not want anything around the High School fields. He feels that it is an eye sore and that other sports are going to want to have units as well. Mr. Core is okay with the location for Options 1 & 2.

**Mr. Murphy made a motion to allow Medway Youth Lacrosse to have a storage unit (7.2 wide x 8 high x 8 long), in Location One on a trial basis for the spring season pending Conservation approval and reassess for future use. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion. Approved, vote: 3-1.**

#### **5. Pixie Fest 2024 - Discussion/Vote**

They requested to use Choate Park for Pixie Fest on Saturday, July 27. (They will move to the library in case of rain.)

**Ms. Rossi made a motion to have the Pixie Fest at Choate Park on Saturday, July 27. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Vote 4-0**

#### **6. MS Cornhole Tournament VFW - Discussion/Vote**

Multiple Sclerosis tournament committee is requesting to use VFW on Saturday, September 7. They will need to get a one-day liquor license. Ms. Harrington will discuss with the VFW to make them aware.

**Ms. Rossi made a motion to allow MS to have their cornhole tournament on Saturday, Sept 7. Mr. Core seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

#### **7. Weddings Choate Park - Discussion/Vote**

Ms. Harrington noted that Karen Marshall from Native Kitchen reached out about having a wedding at Choate on August 31, there would be approximately 40 people at the ceremony. The reception will be at VFW. There was also a request for a wedding in October, the day after the pumpkin walk. Mr. Core and Mr. Murphy agreed that we cannot tell people that they cannot use the space. Mr. Farrell said that we cannot close the park to other people. They cannot reserve the pavilion or any other area of the park or force anyone to move since it's public space.

## **8. 9v9 Lining on Lamson – Discussion/Vote**

The lines have already been done. They worked with Jeff Parcels to determine the location and orientation of the lines. Dan Shea mentioned that it will be helpful for makeup games and for the fall when it starts to get dark earlier.

## **9. Athletic Fields stabilization funds for Hanlon replacement – Discussion/Vote**

Ms. Rossi noted that she received some phone calls about using a portion of the stabilization funds for the Hanlon project, the balance the field stabilization fund is \$392,000. At the Town Meeting they are looking for some of these funds to go toward the Hanlon project. The Town is looking for funding sources to minimize the debt. Ms. Rossi asked about what else the funds could be used for. The way it reads is that it is for athletic fields, but Dennis Crowley responded that it was set up for Hanlon. Mr. Murphy feels that it was for all 3 fields, since they are the ones that can be rented. Mr. Core noted that the Parks Committee members were not involved in the decision to rebuild Hanlon field and track. Mr. Murphy suggests that if funds are allocated, we should specify that a specific amount must go towards the conduit and the new structure for the scoreboard.

**Mr. Murphy made a motion to allocate \$300,000 from the Field Stabilization fund to go toward the High school track and turf project but a portion of the funds must include the costs for the conduits and infrastructure for the new scoreboard. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

## **10. Prep for Finance Committee Meeting**

Ms. Rossi noted that the High School uses Hanlon, but all maintenance comes out of Parks budget.

## **11. Skeleton at Choate Park**

Ms. Harrington received an email from a resident asking that the 12-foot skeleton in Choate Park be taken down because it's offensive. Because there was no place to store it, they have been decorating it for each holiday. Ms. Harrington responded that she would take it under advisement and discuss it with committee. There has been nothing but positive feedback from other residents.

**Mr. Murphy made a motion to keep the skeleton at Choate Park. Mr. Core seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.**

## **12. Spring/Summer Field Schedule Update**

Ms. Harrington said that they found some time at McGovern for the adult soccer league. Mr. Core noted that they were upset about the lack of goals and/or the size of the goals. Mr. Shea said that there are no 9v9 goals available. Mr. Core is going to look around for some frames. Mr. Shea said there are some 11v11 frames at Oakland, but he doesn't think there are nets for them. Mr. Core suggested that the adult league could buy the nets.

Ms. Rossi noted that the snack stand said no to opening for Pete Soule's tournament, so he is arranging for food trucks.

### **13. Chair update**

None.

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

Ms. Harrington is leaving Friday for a Director Conference. She asked if someone could go by and check on the tournaments this weekend while she is away.

Town Report was sent out, Ms. Harrington asked members to provide any edits.

Town is looking for Parks to fund a few things, a few fences and a tractor for the softball/baseball fields, all totaling \$107,000. She will add to the March agenda and ask Mr. Pellitier from DPW to attend.

The Egg Hunt is March 30, Ms. Harrington is looking for volunteers.

Summer camp registration opened and was very successful.

**Ms. Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

### **Next Meeting:**

TBD

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