



Medway Town Hall  
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# TOWN OF MEDWAY

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

### PARKS COMMISSION

**APPROVED 5/8/2024**

Town of Medway  
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting  
March 27, 2024 – 6:30 PM  
Sanford Hall – Medway Town Hall

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

**Absent:** Lyle Core

**Others:** Julie Harrington Director of Parks & Recreation  
Pete Pelletier, DPW  
Roberta Wellnon, Medway Farmers Market  
Karen Marshall, Medway Farmers Market  
Dan Shea, Medway Youth Soccer

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

**Public Comments:** None

#### **1. Approval of Minutes: February 28, 2024**

**Ms. Rossi made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with the correction of the ‘call to order’ time from 6:00 to 6:30. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

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

Ms. Harrington forwarded a draft of the policy and the signs. Ms. Rossi commented that the policy draft looks good.

**Mr. Murphy made a motion to accept the Dog policy and signs (Ms. Harrington will fund the cost of the signs from the Parks Program budget) and Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

#### **3. Farmers Market at Choate Park – Discussion/Vote**

Karen Marshall, owner of the Native kitchen at VFW, attended the meeting and proposed re-opening of a farmers market every Thursday from 3:00-7:00 from June 13-Oct 3 either at Choate Park or the VFW. Mr. D’Innocenzo and others thought the VFW was a better location due parking, but in the past, there were some complaints that there wasn’t enough traffic/attendance at that location. Ms. Rossi asked whether Parks & Rec has jurisdiction to approve the use of the VFW parking lot. Ms. Harrington will check with Allison Potter.

**Mr. D’Innocenzo made a motion to approve the Farmers Market for the days requested at the VFW pending approval from whoever has authorization. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved, vote 3-0.**

#### **4. Middle School Fencing and Tractor Purchase - Discussion/Vote**

Mr. Pelletier explained that he had requested funds in the capital plan to update the fencing/back stop for Kelly Street softball field and Middle School, but it didn’t get funded. Both backstops are very old and rusty and there have been complaints that it is hazardous. The cost is \$30,000 for each field for back stops and fencing in front of the dugouts. The tractor he is referring to is a groomer to be used for all clay infields. Mr. Pelletier thinks they can get by with the current tractor for one more year with new blades and try again in the next capital request. The cost for a new tractor is approximately \$50,000. If funded by Parks & Recreation, it would come out of their Capital/revolving fund. As of January 1, there is about \$74,000, but some will be replenished when the spring per/player fees are paid. Ms. Rossi asked whether funds could be taken out of any other funds, such as funds allocated per field. Ms. Rossi feels that fencing should be done if it’s a safety issue. Mr. Pelletier noted that there are some advantages to doing both fields together. It will take about a week to install; they would need to schedule around the season or shift games somewhere else. If the quotes come in higher (up to \$70,000), Mr. Pelletier feels they could cover up to \$10,000 with their operating budget.

**Mr. D’Innocenzo made a motion to approve using up to \$60,000 from Parks capital fund to replace the fencing at Kelly Street and MS fields. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve funding the replacement of the fencing at the Kelly St and Middle School fields using a maximum of \$70,000, with the contingency that DPW will pay \$10,000 of the contract. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.**

#### **5. HS Baseball Field Scoreboard, Fencing and Batting Cages – Discussion**

Mr. Farrell noted that another fence is needed at the HS field and Mr. Pelletier noted that grass would need to be cut back as well to add a warning track area to have space for mowing. Ms. Rossi reviewed specific field accounts to see if there is money that could be allocated. Mr. Farrell has sent pictures and quotes of the scoreboard options. The cost for the base scoreboard is \$25,000, there is also a \$49,000 quote for a scoreboard that includes space on the bottom for sponsors and has a banner on top as well. Mr. Farrell thought that the base scoreboard would be sufficient. It might be possible to hang some banners from the bottom for advertising. Mr. Murphy asked about the timeframe, Mr. Farrell thought that they might be able to put it in this spring. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Farrell would like to try and get sponsors in advance and then have the sponsor cover some of the costs before deciding if we can move forward. They will both make some calls. \$2,661 is the cost to replace the nets in the batting cages. It is a safety issue. Ms. Rossi questioned whether it should come out of the high school athletic fund and Mr. Farrell explained that the batting cages are considered part of the fields, since they are used by other sports organizations, not just HS team. Mr. Pelletier is waiting for a quote for the for the other fencing, expects it to be approximately \$10,000.

**Mr. D’Innocenzo made a motion to have Parks & Recreation fund the \$2,661 to replace the nets in the HS batting cages. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

**Mr. Murphy made a motion to fund up to \$12,500 to replace the fencing at the high school baseball field. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

## **6. Hanlon Field Scoreboard Replacement - Discussion**

Mr. Farrell and Mr. Murphy will do some outreach to try and secure sponsors as possible funding sources.

## **7. Field Fees MHS Lacrosse Boosters Clinic – 4/27**

Ms. Harrington confirmed that North Field was available, and she offered the HS Lacrosse Booster North field from 2:00-5:30 on 4/27 to be used for a clinic with youth lacrosse.

**Mr. Farrell made a motion to allow MHS Lacrosse Boosters to use North field from 2:00-5:30 on 4/27. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

## **8. Events at Choate Park - Discussion/Vote**

### **HeadStart 5/24**

Ms. Harrington said that HeadStart is looking to have an end of the season party on Friday, 5/24 at Choate Park, for approximately 30 people from 9:00-2:00. They may have a vendor coming in, so want to make sure they have approval.

**Mr. D’Innocenzo made a motion to allow HeadStart to use Choate Park for an end of season party on Friday, 5/24 from 9:00-2:00. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

### **Boy Scouts 6/8**

Ms. Harrington noted that the Boy Scouts are requesting to have a recruitment event from 12:00-4:00 on Saturday, 6/8 at Choate Park. They are looking to use the whole pavilion. This is also the rain date for the Pride Flag raising (morning) so Ms. Harrington suggested that the Boy Scout event be in the afternoon.

**Mr. Rossi made a motion to allow the Boy Scouts to use Choate Park on Sat, 6/8 from 12:00-4:00. Mr. D’Innocenzo seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

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

The Scorpions are asking for all 3 fields on Friday night, 3/28 from 4:00-10:00 but Medway Lacrosse was already scheduled on North from 6:00-7:30. Ms. Harrington agreed to have the Scorpions use the fields but let them know they will need to work around the previously scheduled group.

## **10. Chair update**

Ms. Rossi met with the Finance Committee to talk about our budget line item. There were other issues questioned.

The Hanlon project is scheduled to begin 6/3 and expect that the majority will be completed by early September. The athletic director was asked to plan away games for the beginning of the season.

## **11. Director’s update**

Ms. Harrington noted that the egg hunt is on Saturday, 3/29. The Sensory egg hunt is at 8:30 and open youth egg hunt is at 9:00. They have face painting and photos with the Easter bunny. Friday night, 3/28 is a flashlight egg hunt for teens and adults.

Ms. Harrington noted that they had a bunny brunch today, about 30 children attended. It was at Thayer House and went well.

Mr. Murphy asked about Julie's meeting in Denver. She said she met a lot of great people and learned a lot.

Ms. Harrington asked Mr. Pelletier to take down the 'no dogs' signs at Choate Park.

**Adjourn:**

**Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

**Next Meeting:**

May 8, 2024

May 29, 2024

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