



Medway Town Hall  
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# TOWN OF MEDWAY

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

### PARKS COMMISSION

**APPROVED 6/26/2024**

Town of Medway  
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting  
May 29, 2024 – 6:30 PM  
Sanford Hall, Medway Town Hall  
155 Village Street

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

**Absent:** Rick D’Innocenzo

**Others:** Julie Harrington Director of Parks & Recreation  
Matt Bullard – volleyball  
Susan Dietrich  
Jordan Warnick  
James Fink – Believe Walk  
Gibb Phenegar  
Sue Rourke

**6:30:** Call to Order

**Public Comments:** none

**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.**

**1. Approval of Minutes: May 8, 2024**

Correct the location of the meeting.

**Mr. Farrell made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with corrections. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

**2. Choate Park Event – Believe Walk**

This is a rare disease foundation. Dup15q Alliance is an organization that hosts walks around the country. James Fink is a researcher and wanted to bring a walk to the Boston area. Ms. Rossi is concerned that Sept 28 is the same day as a wedding at Thayer and PorchFest. He

isn't sure about attendance; it will likely be under 100. The times are 10:00-2:00. He said that the date was flexible. Ms. Rossi explained the additional parking at Cassidy field. Mr. Fink will keep in touch with numbers of expected attendees. Ms. Rossi explained that the pavilion is first come, first serve. They are looking to get some volunteers to donate face painting or crafts. If they get food trucks, they need to make sure that the vendors have permits.

**Ms. Rossi made a motion to approve the Dup15q Alliance hosting their Believe Walk in Choate Park from 10:00-2:00 on Sat, Sept 28. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

### **3. Choate Park Sand Volleyball Court – Matt Bullard - Discussion**

Matt Bullard attended the meeting to proposed a volleyball court. He noted that volleyball is more mainstream, and boys do not have a chance to play in HS. The girls team has cuts this year, so more popular. He mentioned that some basketball courts were redone, but there are no longer volleyball courts. There used to be one at Choate, sand is still there, but the poles are gone. Mr. Bullard noted that there used to be a bee's nest in the sand, so couldn't use it. Ms. Rossi asked how many people would be interested. He knew of approximately 10 and 6 of them are committed to helping build it as a community service project. Ms. Rossi mentioned that there could be funding from CPA. Ms. Rossi asked Mr. Bullard to write up a proposal. Ms. Rossi will ask DPW about pricing. Mr. Core will be the contact for Mr. Bullard.

**Ms. Rossi made a motion to look into options for a volleyball court. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

### **4. Options for future usage of Hanlon Track & Field – Discussion**

Ms. Rossi noted that the funding for the Hanlon project was not approved, so we will need to determine what the next steps are. The turf may have another few years, but she is worried about the condition of the track. Ms. Harrington noted that the corners are heaving, and they have been patching sections. Mr. Farrell suggested that perhaps there will be another vote in the fall. Members agreed that track supporters need to get involved and attend meetings to show support and be part of the discussion. Mr. Murphy suggested asking Gale & Associates to give a safety assessment. Ms. Rossi suggested involving the HS track coach and AD.

Gibb Phenegar – Attended meeting and offered perspective based on past field projects/approvals. He noted that the many of issues with the track is due to drainage from the field as well, you cannot just replace the track. Both will need to be done together. Last time it was approved, they involved soccer and lacrosse and addressed with multiple town committees and groups so that all stakeholders are at the table.

### **5. Financials – sources of revenue & expenses – Discussion**

Ms. Rossi noted that money from the stabilization fund is back in the account. Unfortunately, a lot was spent on the design of the field project. The turf is funding most of the programs. Ms. Rossi was looking for suggestions of how to reflect the fact that we are losing revenue opportunities to rent the field because of the HS usage. There have been issues with games running long and some towns having later school days and games starting later. Ms. Rossi will be working on financials. Will provide the same breakdown as in the past. Mr. Core noted that the grass fields run at a deficit and Ms. Rossi noted that some of the grass fees for supplies are coming out of the turf fields too (divided evenly across all fields).

## **6. HS/in-town usage of fields, Revenue/Cost - Discussion**

Sue Rorke spoke and said that she is getting impression that committee is more concerned with revenue from the fields than giving the in-town groups preference. Ms. Dietrich is asking how the bonds taken out by the larger projects are paid off over 10 years. Mr. Phenegar feels that the specific costs for maintaining the fields should be make public so that the community can better understand the situation. He also suggested providing usage data for each field. Ms. Rorke mentioned that all numbers were lumped together so difficult for the community to understand. She mentioned that the lights were on during daylight. She noted that turf fields can be toxic, and she suggested trying to find ways to make grass fields work. Ms. Rossi noted that grass was discussed, and Ms. Rorke noted that the details of the costs were not provided. If grass fields are used, they will have to build more fields because they will need to periodically rest them after the seasons. Mr. Murphy noted that the revenue will decrease if grass. Ms. Rorke said it would be helpful to use grass more and find ways to make it succeed.

## **7. Field Fees: Old School Memorial Gate, May 4<sup>th</sup>, Malia and Olivia Tribute Game**

Ms. Harrington explained that there was a memorial game. They are asking to have the field fees waived. They donated all the funds to the families.

**Ms. Rossi made a motion to waive the fees for the May 4<sup>th</sup> tournament. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Approved, vote 4-0.**

## **8. Youth Group – Attendance at Parks Meetings - Discussion**

Ms. Rossi and Mr. Core noted that there used to be a requirement for a representative from each group to attend and suggests that we request they start attending again.

## **9. Bathroom rental for Choate Summer – Discussion/Vote**

Ms. Harrington noted we can't use the Ide House, so looked into renting trailers units but they were too expensive. She will rent porta potties.

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

Ms. Harrington will redo the summer schedule now that Hanlon is not going to be offline. NEFC paid their invoice. New England Surf had a Memorial Day tournament, they had to add games, so Ms. Harrington is sending a revised invoice. There are a few camps renting fields for the summer.

The cricket teams start in June. Ms. Harrington had received messages that there are some cricket players using the fields now. Mr. Core will stop by more regularly.

## **11. Chair update**

Ms. Rossi asked whether there was a need to reorganize the committee and whether someone else would like to be the chair. All members suggested that Ms. Rossi remain as chair.

**Director's update**

Ms. Harrington noted that Fishing Derby is at Choate Sat am. Pride Flag raising is this Friday night at Choate. Summer camps are full. Mr. Core mentioned having trash barrels put out at events

**Adjourn:**

**Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion. Approved in a unanimous vote.**

**Future Meetings:**

June 26, 2024

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