



Town of Medway
Board of Park & Recreation Commissioners
155 Village Street
Medway, Massachusetts 02053
(508) 533-3275 508-321-4985 (Fax)

Ross Rackliff

Sean Murphy

Paul S. Mahoney

Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2017
Medway High School

In attendance:

Park Commissioners: Sean Murphy, Paul Mahoney, Ross Rackliff

Other: David D'Amico, Shirley Bliss, Glenn Trindade, Mary Jane, Rick, Mike Boynton, Dennis Crowley

Youth Group Representatives: Ernie Buonaccorsi, Michael Tudino, Tony Logan (Medway Lacrosse), Paul Ramos, Dan Doherty, Scorpions Representative

Chair, Mr. Rackliff called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

 **Medway Youth Lacrosse, schedule and fees-**

Medway Youth Lacrosse president **Mr. Buonaccorsi** was at the meeting with other group members. He stated that the Lacrosse group was not allotted the schedule they had requested. The requested schedule is similar to what the group had in the past two years. Commissioner's and Ms. Bliss stated that the group's last year's request for using one turf field was accommodated. Group clarified that this year's request was for two turf fields, Mon-Fri {Mon-Fri (6:00-9:00PM) on North field, and Mon- Thu (6:00-9:00PM) on South field} and one field on Sunday. Group has 16 teams (anticipates 240 – 250 kids enrollment) playing this year. Vast majority of the enrolled kids are from Medway. There are four teams with kids under the age of 10 years. Mr. Buonaccorsi explained the general difficulties the group face as they compete with other in-town sports groups.

Dan Doherty- Mr. Doherty (past president of Medway Lacrosse Group) stated that the group received less practice hours last year compared with previous years since the fields were not used to their fullest. He asked the Commission to provide the yearly financials for North and South fields. He stated it's a critical piece of information the Lacrosse group should have to weigh in on options.

Mr. Rackliff reiterated that providing space for in-town youth groups has always been the Commission's top priority. The revenue generated from renting the fields to out-of-town groups will help in funding the field repairs needed in 8 – 10 years. It is projected that \$1.5 million will be needed for this purpose in 10 years. Commission is working diligently towards making it work for everybody. He said the town fields are available for the benefit of Medway sports groups and kids. He asked the lacrosse group to have internal discussion and come up with a schedule that works reasonably well. He clarified that Medway Sports teams will be given priority over the out of-town groups. He also explained that one of the goals of EPFRAC is to provide more space to in-town Medway youth programs so that conflicts similar to these can be minimized in the future.



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Ms. Bliss stated that Medway youth groups (soccer, lacrosse, NEFC, etc.) have two out of three fields every night of the week.

Glenn Trindade expressed his support to allow in-town groups to have more time on the turf fields. He said the only expense on the North field is for the electricity, janitor, and bathrooms. Town is not necessarily losing money by charging the in-town groups at \$30/hour. The maintenance of the grass fields have always been higher compared with the turf fields. When the BOS voted to support the construction of these fields, the intent was not to have these fields pay for themselves completely. BOS voted to create a stabilization fund which needs 2/3rd of town meeting votes to put money into that account. Money in that fund will be used for the sole purpose it was intended to be used for. Any money in the stabilization fund at the end of ten years is a plus. Fields will be repaired/ replaced as they have always been in the past. Town will ultimately find the money needed to repair/ replace the fields. It necessarily doesn't have to be through renting the fields to out of-town groups.

Dennis Crowley asked the amount town will lose if the out of -town groups get reduced hours on the fields. It was estimated at \$50,000 (approximately). Mr. Crowley said it is necessary that everyone gets at a point where the in-town and out of town groups will get a fair and better usage of the fields. He also said \$50,000 (approx.) is a considerable amount of money to lose or ignore. To a question on whether there is a need for additional turf fields in town, commissioners said "yes".

There was discussion on whether the club teams have some flexibility built into their schedules and share the fields with the in-town groups. Scorpion's team representative stated that it could certainly be a possibility. His team needs three hours blocks Mon- Thursday on turf fields with lights and the latest they can have their teams for practice is between 6:30 -9:30 PM.

Lacrosse group agreed to discuss (internally) all the viable options they have to use the turf fields. They will meet with the Commissioners and the Board of Selectman in a week's time.

A joint meeting with BOS was scheduled on January 17, 2017 at 6:30 PM at Medway High School.

A motion was made by Mr. Rackliff to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM, seconded by Mr. Mahoney. All were in favor.