



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

**TOWN OF MEDWAY**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**PARKS COMMISSION**

**APPROVED 8/25/2021**

Town of Medway  
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting  
August 17, 2021 – 6:30pm  
Medway Senior Center  
76 Oakland Street

**In attendance:**

**Park Commissioners:** Debi Rossi, Chair, Sean Murphy, Richard D'Innocenzo  
**Absent:** Lyle Core, John Farrell

**Others:** Julie Harrington, Director of Parks and Recreation; Denise Legee,  
Dan Shea, Glenn Trindade

Chairman Rossi called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Public Comments:** There were none.

**Agenda Item #1: Dog Signs at Parks**

Ms. Legee, a member of the Open Space Committee, was present at this meeting, due to concerns regarding the leashing of pets in public spaces. Specifically, she raised the issue of dogs being on trails unleashed, which could lead to dangerous incidents. She offered the idea to post signs about leashing all dogs, but was unsure where to post them, especially given the current bylaws, which prohibit the presence of dogs in these spaces. In response, Mr. Trindade brought up the Bylaw Committee, with which he is involved. He shared that many people are currently irresponsible about leashing and picking up after their dogs. Additionally, he mentioned there must be a way for people to responsibly enjoy the trails with their dogs. He also stated that there should be stations throughout the trail with cleaning materials that are emptied on a regular basis. He expressed that the payment for these signs and receptacles should not come out of the Board of Parks, but rather, from the town. In response to Ms. Legee's concerns, Mr. Trindade aims to rephrase the current bylaws to share at the fall town meeting, so that there is a process in place by the winter or spring.

## **Agenda Item #2: Fall Fields**

Mr. Trindade informed the Board of a cornhole fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis, which is intended to take place on September 11, 2021 at the VFW. The fundraiser organizers hope for the Board of Parks Commissioners to waive the field access fee, due to the charitable nature of the event. Building off this point, Ms. Rossi shared that citizens might be concerned that this is an unfair decision. Mr. D'Innocenzo asked if there is precedent for waiving fees for charities' access to fields, which Ms. Harrington and Ms. Rossi confirmed.

**Ms. Rossi moved to waive the field access fee for the MS fundraiser. Mr. Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Rossi - yes, Mr. D'Innocenzo - yes, Mr. Murphy - yes. 3-0**

In terms of fall scheduling issues, the Board discussed how there are many teams with potentially conflicting schedules who want to access the same fields at the same times. Because of this, Ms. Harrington offered to backfill teams' schedules once they are finalized. In order to facilitate the scheduling process, Ms. Rossi suggested that the teams rotate, in order to provide everyone access to the turf. In addition, Mr. D'Innocenzo asked if teams can request which weekends they want access to particular facilities, especially given the fact that teams' schedules are currently not finalized and therefore flexible. Ms. Rossi clarified that most teams will have their schedules by September 1, 2021.

Next, Mr. Booth shared that in the past, his team split the cost of lights at the fields with the town. Ms. Rossi suggested continuing this idea with Mr. Shea's team; he stated that he would present this idea to his board.

Ms. Rossi summed up the previous points, emphasizing the potential success in sharing costs with teams for fields and lighting. Mr. D'Innocenzo agreed with this and offered the suggestion to incorporate these costs into the budget moving forward.

The Board agreed that they will discuss the finalization of the schedule at next week's meeting when the teams have more information.

Lastly, Mr. D'Innocenzo asked about the containers at the middle school. Ms. Harrington shared that some belong to the teams and some belong to the school. He then asked about the grooming of the turf fields, which takes place twice a year. He asked if the town can get rid of the vegetation on the fields. He also asked the Board if any paving or fencing of the fields should be redone. Ms. Rossi shared that in order to do so, the Board could seek money from the town, as well as identify fundraising opportunities.

## **Agenda Item #3. Chair Update (Ms. Rossi)**

Ms. Rossi reiterated her previous concern with citizens reaching out regarding what they perceived as "sweetheart deals" for particular programs, teams, or groups. She stressed the importance of clarifying that there is no favoritism in the cornhole fundraising deal.

## **Agenda Item #4: Director Update (Ms. Harrington)**

Ms. Harrington shared that the conditions at Choate Park are subpar, primarily due to trash overflow. She also shared that there have been vandalism incidents, such as spray painted

graffiti, in local parks. Mr. Murphy suggested adding more trash cans to ameliorate the trash-related issue. Ms. Rossi also suggested using the park as a community service opportunity. She stated that this would be feasible by coordinating with the schools and the police department. Ms. Rossi also suggested establishing a standard fee for field or park access for parties and gatherings in order to hold people accountable for trash pickup.

**Motion to Adjourn: At 8:20PM, Ms. Rossi motioned to adjourn. Mr. D'Innocenzo seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rossi - yes, Mr. D'Innocenzo - yes, Mr. Murphy - yes. 3-0**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Amelia McLaughlin, Recording Secretary