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

**APPROVED 3/31/2021**

Town of Medway  
Board of Park Commissioners Meeting  
January 27, 2021 – 7pm  
155 Village Street  
Sanford Hall

**In attendance:**

**Park Commissioners:** Debi Rossi, Chair, Sean Murphy, Lyle Core, John Farrell,  
**Absent:** Joanne Williams

**Others:** Julie Harrington,

**Others remotely:** Peter Pelletier, Carol Pratt, Glenn Trindade, Gail Hachenberg, Bob  
Herstzuber, Preston Gales, Rich Coakley, Dan Shea, Jeb Booth, and  
Tanner Guarino.

Chairman Rossi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Herstzuber of The Town of Millis and who is a member of the American Model Yacht Association is requesting the use of the pond at Choate Park to organize sailing days through his boat club. This will be at no cost to the town or the Parks Committee only permission to use the venue. Ms. Rossi liked the idea and asked Mr. Herstzuber for more information to be reviewed and discussed at a future meeting.

**Carol Pratt**

Ms. Rossi introduced Ms. Pratt and welcomed her input on the current Parks budget noting it is very tight. Ms. Pratt suggested putting a placeholder article on the special town meeting to ask for a funds transfer from certified free cash to fund the potential deficit in the Parks revolving account. This article would be placed as a precaution in the event revenue does not increase. Ms. Pratt noted the difficulty in projecting the years revenue. Ms. Rossi projected about 140k this year in expenses. They agreed to come up with a dollar amount for the placeholder together. Mr. Murphy asked if plowing the fields and splitting the cost would be an option. Ms. Rossi asked when the irrigation at the middle school will need to be paid. Mr. Pelletier noted it will not need to pay until a new PO will be issued, additionally it would depend on what they encounter as for maintenance.

### **Cultural Council**

Ms. Hachenberg requested the use of Choate park for two events planned through the Cultural Council at no cost to the Town. The first would be Art in the Park where local Medway artists and visitors create art together. Ideally this would take place during busier times in the spring to enhance visibility and create a sense of camaraderie while following COVID-19/Town guidelines. Ms. Rossi has concerns about parking that will need to be worked out and suggests the summer months would be best. The second would be the use of the park during a weekend to display the work of the Pixie Project (which are small fairies made by children) and exhibited in the park. Ms. Rossi suggested the use of the shadow boxes on the trail around the high school. She will look at calendar and make them an agenda item for approval.

### **Pickleball, Softball Fields Update**

Mr. Trindade addressed a few projects that funds have been reserved for. The first is an additional Softball field at the middle school which would allow them to participate/host tournaments. Due to the infrastructure of the land, it was determined by an outside survey the approximate cost would be between \$200k-\$225K. In addition, the Centre street field consistently floods and resulting in lost games. To rectify this at a cost of \$35k, they could build the infield up, however the outfield would still be in flooding area. The consensus of the BOS would be in favor of investing funds for the 3<sup>rd</sup> softball field as well as the infield if the independent study done will show this investment would help mitigate any future expenses associated with the flooding. To clarify, Ms. Rossi reaffirmed the BOS would be willing to spend upwards of \$250k on softball fields which funds would come from free cash and capital projects. Mr. Pelletier noted the adjustment of field drainage and cost associated with it.

The next item is to install 4 new pickleball courts at several locations including Oakland, School Street, and Idylbrook. All locations possess benefits and certain disadvantages which could create possible additional expenses such as lighting, parking, leveling. Mr. Trindade noted the addition of 4 courts would cost approximately \$250k which includes the addition of bathrooms and a pavilion. His hope is to get this voted and agreed upon by special town meeting.

According to an old parks commission vote from the 1990's there will be no above ground structures built at Idylbrook, however based on that logic there could be an updated vote allowing it including lights. Mr. Murphy mentioned the possibility of outsiders coming to Medway to use the new pickleball courts. Mr. Trindade agreed that would happen and would need to manage how they are used.

A third project was proposed at Cassidy by Mr. Trindade for clean parking and additional sidewalk work. The proposed amount would be approximately \$300k for parking, drainage, and new paving of the side road to eliminate dust to abutters.

Ms. Rossi asked Mr. Gales for his opinion on the softball field investment proposed. He stated the program is growing quickly however needs more fields to allow the teams to grow and only has one functioning field at this time.

Ms. Rossi asked Mr. Trindade what he will need from the Parks Commission. He asked for their support since these projects will eventually fall under their umbrella. His hope is to make a long-term plan that will benefit the whole community.

### **Spring 21 Fields**

Ms. Harrington reviewed the updated field request dates by the Scorpions and NEFC. Mr. Booth requested field use for Easter weekend in April for National League games. Rossi noted due to a wedge season the high school may have a priority. Ms. Harrington noted she would be able to accommodate the first two weekends he has requested in March.

Ms. Guarino is requesting the use of all three fields and two turfs for the weekend of June 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> for a lacrosse “tournament” running from 8AM – 5PM.

Mr. Murphy suggested looking back to see what was charged in previous years for Memorial Day weekend.

### **Motions**

Mr. Farrell had to leave prior to voting.

**Ms. Rossi moved to approve Ms. Guarino’s request to use all 5 fields for June 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> with the caveat they would need to be flexible with scheduling and at the same rental rate as last year. Mr. Murphy seconded. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 4-0**

**Ms. Rossi moved to approve the use of one field to the Scorpions for Scorpion Bowl for Easter Weekend for April 2<sup>nd</sup> through April 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Murphy seconded. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 4-0**

**Ms. Rossi moved to approve the use of all fields on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to the Scorpions and March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> will have the use of two fields. Mr. Murphy seconded. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 4-0.**

**Mr. Murphy moved to approve the use of all fields to NEFC for the weekends of March 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 4-0.**

**Ms. Rossi moved to approve New England Surf to have all fields Memorial Day Weekend without setting a fee at this time. Mr. Murphy seconded. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 4-0.**

Ms. Rossi noted December minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Rossi adjourned the Board of Park Commissioner meeting at approximately 9:23PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Metaxia Mitropoulos