



16 UNION STREET  
HAMILTON, MA 01982

DIRECTOR  
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## MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: November 13, 2017

PRESENT:

Steve Ozahowski, Chairperson  
Denis Curran  
Len Dolan  
John Cusolito  
Reggie Maidment  
Brad Tilley  
Sean Timmons, Recreation Director

Accept Minutes

**Brad makes a motion to accept minutes from 10.17.17 Denis 2<sup>nd</sup> - All in Favor 6-0**

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

### 1. Longmeadow

John updated the board on the meetings of the Longmeadow study group. He indicated that the meetings have been regular and that the next step for the committee was to get a meeting organized with the school committee to see if the land would be something they would have use for and if discuss its possible uses for school purposes. Bob Currie an abutter to the Longmeadow property attended our meeting. He expressed to the board that he agrees that field space in town for recreational use has diminished over the years due to the building of the library and the middle school however he expressed that having more fields is only important to some people in town and not others. The other proposed use for Longmeadow is for affordable housing but Bob as well as the board brought up the concern that Longmeadow's location right next to the high school would add heavy traffic to 1A during school drop off and pick up times as well as other times during school events etc. which is already a very busy time of day on 1A. Denis brought up to Bob that in the end the recreation department and/or the schools will be competing with for "the same tax dollar" as those that want affordable housing.

### 2. Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Turf Field

Sean briefly updated the board on the status of the turf field project at the High School. He mentioned that a letter was sent to the school committee prior to their last meeting for which the turf field was an agenda item. Sean invited David Polito from the school committee to come to our board meeting to better explain what the school committee discussed and how they planned to proceed in regards to the letter the board sent them. David explained that although the school committee voted to have the turf field on the ballot at April town meeting for a 3.7 million dollar debt exclusion what really happened was that the school committee was voting to proceed with the project and agreed the communication could have and should have been better between the school committee and the rec board before any vote was taken on how to proceed with project. David explained that the school committee would need to ask for 1 million dollars to repair Winthrop school so the committee's feeling was if they were going to ask for money they should ask for a larger sum than they need to repair Winthrop school so that money could be available for the turf field project. Phil Tocci attended our meeting as he has been part of the working group for the turf field project. He felt that the working group should have been communicated with to come back together and form a business plan for the project and to begin some private fundraising before any amount of money was requested at town meeting. The rec board advised David to return to the school committee and ask them that the working group for the project be brought back together and that they let the working group devise a plan to begin private fundraising and depending on the outcome of that make a decision on whether to bring to April town meeting at a later date. Steve feels that a year



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from now would be a better timetable to bring to town meeting. Everyone agreed there is public interest in the project right now which would help the fundraising piece as well as a possible vote at town meeting in April.

### **3. Fairhaven Field**

Sean met with Craig regarding the upcoming spring season for Girls Lacrosse to play on Fairhaven field. It was determined that Girls Lacrosse will practice at the high school until Donovan field is playable at which point they will move to Donovan and then Fairhaven field will only be used 3 times per week for our youth lacrosse program.

### **4. Pingree Playground**

Sean updated the board on the status of the Pingree Park Playground. He is hoping that the playground will be installed the Monday or Tuesday after Thanksgiving week. It will be a community build.

### **5. Wenham Open Space Plan**

Sean shared with the board that the Wenham Open Space survey is now available and advised that they send it out to others they know in town so that as many people as possible will take it.

### **6. Winter Brochure**

The Winter Brochure is out electronically and will be out in print at the end of this week. It will be sent home with all elementary school children next week. Registration begins on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **7. Gazebo Repair**

Sean discussed with the board the need for repairs on the gazebo at Patton Park. He let the board know that the lowest bid to do the work was \$33,000 which is more expensive than he anticipated it to be considering the work is not very extensive therefore the work will be done mostly in house with a couple of pieces of the job being out sourced.

### **8. New Business**

Both CPC's have asked for a sign to be placed at the pool indicating that CPC money was used to build the pool. Denis had an idea to merge the old Veteran's Memorial Plaque with the new CPC plaque to satisfy both needs.

Steve brought up the fact that the basketball hoops at Patton Park are in rough shape. The board asked if we could just replace them which Sean was open to if we ask for funds at town meeting in April. An alternate plan would be to piece meal some money together from the rec fund to replace them. Sean informed the board he would gather cost and installation information and come up with a plan to replace the basketball hoops.