



16 UNION STREET
HAMILTON, MA 01982

DIRECTOR
SEAN TIMMONS

TELEPHONE: 978-468-2178

WEBSITE
WWW.HWRECREATION.COM

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: January 22, 2018

PRESENT:

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

Accept Minutes

Brad makes a motion to accept minutes from 12.18.17 Denis 2nd - All in Favor 4-0

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

1. Hamilton-Wenham Little League Scoreboard

At our last meeting Steve had asked little league to provide the board with a photo showing where the scoreboard would be located at Patton Park and what it would look like. Little league provide the photos to the board prior to this meeting. Brad who originally opposed the idea of the scoreboard because he felt it would stick out too much in the park, after viewing the photo now feels as though it might actually help the appearance in the location little league proposes to put it. It would block the electrical boxes in the park which may in fact improve the look of the park. The board feels as though the scoreboard is acceptable so long as it is not taller than the tennis court fence but that it is high enough off the ground that kids can't hit it.

Denis makes a motion to approve Little League's request for a scoreboard at Patton Park as long as it is not taller than tennis court fence. Brad 2nd - All in Favor 5-0

2. Donovan Field Baseball Diamond

Sean briefly explained to the board that at the last field user meeting a discussion was had in regards to removing the baseball diamond at Donovan field to have more of a multi-purpose field space. Without the baseball diamond it would allow for the shifting of playing fields from season to season and hopefully alleviate some of the stress on town fields. Little League has expressed that they would prefer to keep the baseball diamond for their use. The board suggests that as a trade off for getting rid of the baseball diamond at Donovan maybe some work can be done on the baseball diamond at Winthrop in order to absorb the added use it would take on. Sean and the board agree that more information on specific amounts of usage for the Donovan baseball diamond are needed before a decision can be made.

3. Donovan Field Re-Naming

Sean asked the board for their input on the idea. The town owns the field and has the right to rename it if they wish. The board as a whole agrees this would be a good idea. A suggestion was made by a community member in attendance that the board potentially tackle trying to get some additional field space as part of the process of renaming the field.



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4. Pingree Playground

Sean informed the board that although they agreed to support the playground with \$5,000 no official vote was taken at a meeting. Sean requested that the board take an official vote on this matter.

**Denis makes a motion that rec board take \$5,000 from revolving fund to put towards playground project.
Brad 2nd- All in Favor 5-0**

5. New Business

Denis asked Sean and the board about the status of getting a plaque for the pool that states that CPA funds were used to build the pool. Sean explained that Hamilton would be creating their own plaque and therefore Sean wanted to wait on Wenham's so that they would be similar or possibly made into one.

Sean updated the board on the basketball hoops at Patton Park. It was determined that the DPW can use a backhoe to pull the hoops straight and that only the nets will need to be replaced at this time.

6. High School Athletic Complex

Sean gave the board and the attending community members a brief overview of the history of the proposed High School turf field project. The superintendent of Hamilton Wenham Regional Schools explained to the board and community members that at this point the school committee has voted to bring forward 3.5 million dollar debt exclusion at this April town meeting. This would cover the cost of the game field, track and lights. Sean asked the board for ideas on how to get the "working group" back together and organized so that fundraising can happen. Steve and the board feel as though this April town meeting may be too soon to be asking for money from the residents and that we might be better off to get fundraising first and then potentially bring the remaining amount of money to town meeting next year. The superintendent's feeling on this was that where the project has not been approved by the town donors may not be as willing to give. Everyone did agree that the longer we put the project off the higher the cost of the project will be. If approval is given at this town meeting construction on the project would not begin until June 2019. Denis believes it's a good idea to get the "working group" back together but did express that it should be mostly residents with an interest in the project with a couple of town employees for guidance. The board asked interested community members in attendance to reach out to members of the community in order to form a strong working group to help with fundraising, public outreach, and public support. The working group will be meeting again in a couple of weeks.