



16 UNION STREET
HAMILTON, MA 01982

DIRECTOR
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MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: December 18, 2017

PRESENT:

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

Accept Minutes

Denis makes a motion to accept minutes from 11.17.17 Brad 2nd - All in Favor 6-0

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

1. Hamilton-Wenham Little League

Phil Monahan, President of HWLL attended the board meeting to present the board with some improvement project the league would like to conduct at the Patton Park Little League diamond. The first item he discussed with the board was adding bleachers to the little league diamond at Patton. Currently families bring chairs and sit along the foul lines however this is not the safest option as there is no protection against foul balls for them. They are looking to install bleachers similar to those that are at Cheesman field. The addition of bleachers would also mean adding additional fencing or netting of some kind to protect patrons seated on them. The board mentioned to Phil that addition of bleachers may be something that needs to go to the planning board. If the bleachers are to be permanent (built on a concrete slab) a building permit would also be necessary. Although the board recommended that the bleachers be portable Sean urged Little League to fill out the building permit and go through the process with all other necessary boards before making a final decision.

Denis makes a motion to approve Little League's request for bleachers at Patton Park Diamond contingent on the proper process being followed. Steve 2nd - 5-0

The second project little league brought to the board was the installation of a scoreboard similar to the one at Cheesman field also at Patton Park Diamond. They would have the location of the scoreboard be by the electrical box near the tennis courts in right field. The cost for this item is around \$5,000. The scoreboard would be 5 ft high and 14 feet wide. The Little League has a plan to add bushes around the base to make it blend in more with the park. The board as with the bleacher project reminded little league that this project would also need to go to planning board and any other necessary boards before it could be undertaken. Steve asked little league to provide the board with photos that have a scoreboard photo shopped in to the board for further review. Sean reminded everyone in attendance that there is a sign by law that the board of selectman would have to way in on before any type of scoreboard could go in. Little League will submit photos to the board before our next meeting at which point the board will better be able to take action on the matter.

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. The school still plans to go ahead with having the project on the ballot at this upcoming April town meeting. Sean and members of the working committee and school committee are having a meeting the first week in January. The rec board asks that Sean make it



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very clear to them that the board does not support a debt exclusion for this upcoming town meeting. The rec board would like Sean to get the committee to organize some type of private fundraising before any money is asked for a town meeting. Once private fundraising has happened then the board would be comfortable with the project going to town meeting for whatever additional costs are needed. The overall feeling from the rec board is that the school committee is setting this project up for potential failure by rushing into asking for the debt exclusion at April town meeting.

3. Pingree Park Playground

Sean gave the board a brief update on the Pingree Park Playground project. The project is complete and the rep from the playground company would be coming out to check everything in the next couple of days.

4. Patton Park Basketball Courts

At the last board meeting concern was brought up regarding the basketball hoops at Patton Park. Sean provided the board with images and prices for new hoop options at this meeting. The board decided that goose neck hoops would be the best option because they are durable and it is much more difficult for children to climb them due to their shape. The cost for this project will be between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

5. FY 19 Budget

Sean briefly provided the board with a glimpse of the FY 19 budget for the recreation department. The largest change to the budget from last year is the addition of 17.5 hours for the administrative assistant position to take it from part time to full time. The other large item in the budget is \$6,000 to redo the gym floor. This would be a one time expense that would be split between the two towns.

Steve makes a motion to approve the FY 19 budget. John 2nd - All in Favor 6-0

6. Wind Screen at Patton Park Baseball Diamond

Sean wanted the board to know that we are looking for a way to remove the screen. Brad and Denis formulated a plan to try and remove it this coming weekend.

7. Pingree Park Tennis Courts

Trevor Jones attended our meeting to discuss the disrepair of the Pingree Park tennis courts Trevor described the issues with the courts to be "craters" that are 6 inches wide and stretch across all four courts. Although he mentioned it makes it difficult to play tennis because of the bounces the ball can take if it hits one of the "craters" the bigger issue is risk for injury to players. The total cost of repair cost is not known and who would cover the cost also is an unknown. When Sean had the project looked at about 2 years ago the cost was going to be about \$35,000 just to repair the problem areas this did not include resurfacing the entire tennis court. The board feels that the many trees around the tennis court could be adding to the problem as the roots would be under the tennis court. The board encouraged Trevor and the high school to apply for a possible grant that could help to repair the problem. The board also suggested talking with Gordon College about use of their tennis courts as well as the possibility of taking some trees down as part of the repair to avoid more problems in the future. Sean is going to get new quotes on a full inspection of the courts and report back to the board for a final decision on how best to move forward.

8. Longmeadow

Sean asked that the recreation board take an official vote on their opinion for the Longmeadow Property.

HAMILTON - WENHAM



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Len makes a motion that the Recreation Committee declare that the proposed Hamilton Wenham Regional High School Athletic playing Field Renovation Project remains our top priority. The Committee does not wish to entertain other options for field development at this time. Denis 2nd - All in Favor 5-0 (Steve Recused himself from discussion and vote)

9. New Business

Sean informed the board that everyone would need to complete the State Ethics online training which he will send out to them.