

Approved
1/25/18

Dennis Mannone, Chair
Karin Menard, Clerk
Pete McCauliff

ffm km

Town of Lunenburg Park Commission



Tel: (978) 582-4160
520 Chase Road
Lunenburg, MA 01462

MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2017

7pm

Lunenburg Middle High School

Conference Room B111

7:30pm

Lunenburg Middle High School

Middle School Collaborative Room D132

1025 Mass Ave.

Lunenburg, MA 01462

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FEB 13 2018

LUNENBURG TOWN
CLERK OFFICE

1) Dennis Mannone called the meeting to order at 7pm in the LMHS Conference Room B111. Attendance: Karin Menard, Dennis Mannone, Pete McCauliff, Jack Rodriquez.

2) Minutes

a. Karin Menard motioned and Dennis Mannone seconded to approve the minutes of November 16, 2017 - Approved 3-0

b. Karin Menard motioned and Dennis Mannone seconded to approve the minutes of December 4, 2017 - Approved 3-0

3) Turf and Track Discussion and Vote

Karin informed the commission that after forwarding the Draft Memorandum of Agreement to Superintendent Calmes, she met with both the School Committee Chair Heather Sroka and Superintendent Calmes at their request. At that meeting a second option of the Park Commission handing the complex over to the Public School was suggested. Karin noted that the complex is located on the school campus and the school has policy in place as well as the means to take over the complex. She also informed the commission that earlier in the week she also met with Town Counsel and Town Manager to get an understanding of whether this could be executed by a vote of the Park Commission if they chose that option. At that meeting Karin pointed out to Town Counsel that School Committee Minutes from October 21, 2009 mention an Easement that was filed with the Registry. Per Town Counsel, that is an issue that he would need to research as preliminary searches by both him and Karin produced nothing on the Registry website. She noted however that we could still move forward with handing over the complex to the School Department if the commission desires.

Dennis raised a concern about youth groups not getting their fair share and that it the Schools are the only one that controls it they could just say no. Karin pointed out that if we gave the school the responsibility to schedule, maintain and plan as we had decided on earlier in the month and then tried to maintain some control that could easily lead to conflicts since both the Park Commission and the School Committee are both elected boards and Park Commission could not force or over ride a School Committee decision. She also noted that the Memorandum could be reworked if we so desired but after researching and working through the fine details over the last few weeks, it is her thought that the best option would be handing it over to the School Department for complete control.

Pete reminded the commission that the residents of Lunenburg wouldn't put up with being completely ousted from the school fields so he would expect public access to continue. He also said that as the school athletic programs grow, their field needs also continue to grow. Youth groups with current agreements would continue to have access and any new requests would be approved based on availability and mentioned that the School Committee has a strong use and procedure policy of their current fields and this would be included.

Karin Menard moved that the Parks Commission proceed with transferring the care, maintenance, and management of the Lunenburg Track and Field to the School Committee and to take any and all necessary legal measures to carry this out. Pete McCauliff seconded.

Prior to the vote, Pete McCauliff wanted to make sure it was noted that he has spoken with the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission and spoke with the lawyer of the day 3 separate times and each time they have said there was no Conflict of Interest. He has requested a written opinion that can be filed with the town. That written opinion could take up to 45 days but based on their verbal opinion of no conflict, is comfortable casting his vote.

Motion passed 2-1 with Karin Menard and Pete McCauliff voting in support and Dennis Mannone voting against.

4) Next Meeting Date and Future Items - not discussed at this time due to time restraints.

5) Recessed at 7:32pm and moved to the Middle School Collaborative Room D132 to join the School Committee meeting.

6) Reconvened as a Commission at 7:35 for Turf and Track Discussion with Lunenburg School Committee in room D132.

Karin updated the School Committee on the vote that was taken before the recess. Dennis voiced his concern about the residents of town still having fair access since a lot of their time, money and fundraising went into the creation of the facility. Wendy Bertrand noted that the District has a usage policy and a lot of thought was put into the creation of that policy. Lexi said the district has made a great amount of progress with communication and making things stronger. They are willing to sit down with the Youth Groups and work out usage as needed and that there is evidence to support the fact that they are committed to the community having access to the fields.

Dawn Marie Ayles motioned Meredith Weiss seconded to accept the accept the Park Commission proposal with a similar worded motion. Passed 5-0.

Karin said she would forward the information on votes taken to Town Manager and Town Counsel.

6) Motion to adjourn by Karin Menard, seconded by Pete McCauliff- 3-0 to adjourn at 7:55pm.