



**TOWN OF MENDON**  
**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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**Meeting Date: 1/19/17**  
**Meeting Location: Mendon Town Hall**  
**20 Main St. Mendon, MA**  
**Minutes Approved: 2/16/2017**

**Members Present:** Dan Byer, AJ Byrne, Tom Belland

**Parks Director:** Dan Byer

**Others:** Dan Smith, Tracy Alcock (Nipmuc Youth Baseball), Dave Allaire (Mendon Summer Basketball)

*The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.*

The commission discussed the spring field use process. Dan B. explained the set up and how they would like to handle scheduling.

Dan S and Tracy discussed the baseball fields. Nipmuc Youth Baseball (NYB) is looking in to possible irrigation for Veteran's Park. They are also exploring lighting options. Dan B. suggested they consider CPA funds. Tom agreed and said CPA is usually willing to fund parks projects especially when they bring in additional grant or private funding especially when the project will benefit the whole community not just baseball. AJ asked Dan S and Tracy what other field's baseball uses. They explained there are 3 in Mendon and 3 in Upton.

The commission discussed NYB's request for a Capital Improvement waiver. They will be donating \$1,500 to the 2 eagle scout projects, (Pezzella concession stand stairs, and Veteran's park Shed)

The commission discussed the request for use by South Central Warriors. Last year there was some tension over working out the field use and we would like to resolve any issues now. South Central is requesting 1 day a week and Sundays for games. Tom suggests they can use Sunday mornings before 12. Dan S asked about what their fee would be and Dan explained. All agree we want to work together. It was agreed to offer them Sundays before 12 and Mondays 4-5 for practices. Dan B. will reach out and confirm.

Dan S said NYB will be meeting with Softball (NYS) to discuss opening day. They are likely looking at April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dan recommended they contact the Board of Selectmen early to secure their parade permit. Dan B. will also send Dan S. the info on the Board of Health.

Dan reviewed the planned work for the Pezzella concession stand. We need to reconfigure the well and install a new pressure tank. Dan asked about the 3-bay sink. Tom explained they are still decided whether or not to install it. Dan S explained that baseball will just be doing snacks and pre-packaged foods this year. AJ suggested if baseball has trouble finding people to run the stand, Parks may be willing to run it.

Dan explained the emergency key for the Veteran field gates. He will send info with the field use application.

Tom asked if there were any questions. Dan S. asked about locations for AED's. He said baseball bought one. Dan B. explained Parks has one at the beach. He had reached out to a company for a quote on an enclosure but has not heard back. This would allow us to place an AED in a public location.

**AJ made a motion to approve the field use requests from Nipmuc Youth Baseball and South Central Warriors, Tom seconded and all approved.**

The commission discussed the 350<sup>th</sup> events. Dave Allaire discussed possible tournaments with the basketball league. AJ suggested they look into a community event with activities for all ages similar to Summerfest. They discussed timing and agreed that July would be ideal. Dave explained that the child towns of Mendon are already part of their leagues. Dan S suggested a baseball tournament. AJ said they did a home run derby as part of Summerfest that was very successful. All agreed we will need to meet to discuss the 350<sup>th</sup> events.

Dan mentioned the Cardboard Boat Race on July 20<sup>th</sup>, he asked Dave to avoid scheduling basketball on that day to free up parking space.

*Dan S, Tracy Alcock, and Dave Allaire left the meeting.*

The commission discussed the use requests from Mendon Upton Youth Soccer and Nipmuc Youth Lacrosse. Soccer has requested their usual Grover M-F, Sa, Su and Clough M-F. Lacrosse has requested Clough M-F and Grover on Sundays. The commission discussed several compromises. Tom said we need to consider the existing uses. There is also a request from the Men's Over 40 soccer league for Sunday mornings. The commission decided to reach out to soccer and lacrosse and see if they can come up with an agreement on their own otherwise we can decide for them.

The commission reviewed the use request from Nipmuc Youth Softball. They are proposing repairing the dugout fencing and expanding the shed in place of the use fees. The commissioners agreed.

**Tom made a motion to approve Nipmuc Youth Softball's request, AJ seconded and all approved.**

Dan reviewed a proposal that was received from Chris Hadfield from Next Steps Sports Academy. Chris reached out to Dan less than 48 hours before the meeting and requested a meeting. Dan met with him to discuss his proposal. Chris is looking to partner with Mendon Parks to offer his programs. He would like to reserve space at Miscoe through us and operate under our insurance. In exchange we would receive 15% of his profits. AJ mentioned that Chris had approached the Nipmuc Youth Basketball as well. Right now he is running his vacation programs through the soccer league. Dan explained some of the background, Chris was operating through the schools but they have changed their policies. He is interested in working with Parks because they can rent the school facilities for free. Dan is concerned that they would be "sub-letting" the schools facilities and the school would likely charge for the use and Tom and AJ agree. All the commissioners have concerns and agree we need to meet with Chris to discuss further. Tom asked why the school's facilities rather than our own. Chris will send Dan more info and Dan will forward it to the commissioners. All agree we shouldn't dismiss the idea and should discuss further.

The commission discussed the next meeting date. The earliest we can meet again will be February 16<sup>th</sup>. Dan will invite Chris.

**Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/19/16 meeting, AJ seconded and all approved.**

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.*