



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Committee for the Robert Tedford Memorial

THOMAS BOSCARINO
CHAIRMAN

SHERRY KRAUS
VICE CHAIRMAN

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

FELICIA LAPLANTE
DUSTIN HUGUENIN
LISA HOULIHAN
JOANNE TEDFORD
KATE TEDFORD
TIMOTHY WEBB

Ad Hoc Committee for the Robert Tedford Memorial
Special Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2019
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Felicia LaPlante, Sherry Kraus, Dustin Huguenin, Thomas Boscarino, Lisa Houlihan, Joanne Tedford, Kate Tedford

MEMBERS ABSENT: Timothy Webb

OTHERS PRESENT: Lori Spielman, First Selectman; Julia Connor, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Spielman called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. Citizens' Forum [non-agenda items]: No citizens came forward.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee members introduced themselves and briefly described their role on the Committee and their relationship to the late Robert Tedford.

IV. PURPOSE OF MEETING

- Elect Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

First Selectman Spielman called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Felicia LaPlante nominated Thomas Boscarino; Sherry Kraus seconded the nomination.

First Selectman Spielman confirmed that Mr. Boscarino had been nominated for the position of Chairman and asked if there were any more nominations for Chairman. There being none, the following motion was made:

MOVED (LAPLANTE), SECONDED (KRAUS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT
THOMAS BOSCARINO AS CHAIRMAN.

Chairman Boscarino called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Kate Tedford nominated Mrs. Kraus; Ms. LaPlante seconded the nomination.

Chairman Boscarino confirmed that Sherry Kraus had been nominated for the position of Vice Chairman and asked if there were any more nominations for Vice Chairman. There being none, the following motion was made:

MOVED (TEDFORD), SECONDED (LAPLANTE), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT SHERRY KRAUS AS VICE CHAIRMAN.

- Propose Meeting Schedule for Remainder of 2019

Chairman Boscarino asked if there was a consensus of nights that are better for the other Committee members, particularly the family members of Mr. Tedford. It was decided that the June meeting would be scheduled this evening, and the remainder of the schedule would be finalized at a later date.

- Discuss Project

Mr. Boscarino mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Commission had prior discussions amongst themselves and with the family of potential project ideas, such as a revision of Brookside Park to the Robert/Bob Tedford Sports Complex at Brookside Park, renaming Brookside Park in its entirety, or naming a new park off Stein Road after Mr. Tedford. Joanne Tedford mentioned conversations she had with Lauren Desrocher of the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee, such as memorial benches being placed at various locations at the Batz Property. Chairman Boscarino shared an idea that Kate Tedford had brought up at a prior Parks and Recreation Meeting of placing a concrete item in the ground or a plaque on the wall in memory of Bob, at the corner of the property where he could always be found during events. Ms. LaPlante asked if doing multiple forms of memorials would be appropriate. Mrs. Tedford asked if the current sign at Brookside could be altered or revised without having to create an entirely new sign if that was the route that gets pursued. Chairman Boscarino asked if there was a height limitation regarding signage, and Lisa Houlihan stated that eight feet is the limit where different regulations apply to signage. She also mentioned that another option could be leaving the remaining sign as is, while adding a memorial bench or other permanent item at Brookside Park to pay homage to him while not changing the new sign that he had been responsible for and that he was very proud of. Mrs. Tedford stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission felt that Brookside Park most represents the Ellington Recreation Department and therefore Bob.

Mrs. Tedford mentioned an idea of holding a contest where individuals can submit photos and memories of their interactions of Bob to create a "History of Ellington Recreation" book. Ms. LaPlante shared a concern that if Brookside Park were renamed in Bob's honor, people may still refer to it as Brookside Park, as it has been a staple property in Town for so long, and she doesn't want his name forgotten. Mrs. Kraus stated that if it is renamed, the newer individuals in Town may ask who Bob was and create new conversations about the immeasurable impact he had on Ellington. Discussion was held regarding whether or not including Brookside Park in a new or revised name of the park, and the majority felt that renaming it entirely, without the inclusion of Brookside, would be fine.

Chairman Boscarino asked what steps would need to be taken in the smaller installations of memorials at the various venues throughout Town; for items at the schools, the Superintendent would need to be involved in the discussion, and the Board of Selectmen would be consulted for projects on Town

property. Mrs. LaPlante will contact the Ellington Public Schools Administration to check on the process for memorials at the schools.

Mrs. LaPlante expressed her support of the smaller corner memorials, and she wants any project that moves forward to be something that he would be proud of and support. Vice Chairman Kraus shared that any memorial idea should be implemented to touch the largest number of people who knew him, as well as honor his memory.

Mrs. LaPlante mentioned that she is in support of the Stein Road project, as there is the potential for a disc golf course, which Bob and Mrs. Tedford enjoyed together; Mrs. LaPlante brought up that just because Brookside Park is the largest place in Town currently doesn't mean it always will be. Mrs. Tedford asked First Selectman Spielman what her vision is for the proposed Stein Road project. The first main field could be utilized for a picnic area, outdoor yoga, camping, outdoor craft activities, a music venue, educational programs or other multipurpose uses. Ms. Tedford asked if the property had been tested and if there would be soil problems or other issues if this project was pursued. Mrs. LaPlante mentioned that the Town has a Capital Improvements Plan that the Committee could submit the project to. Chairman Boscarino asked when neighbors would have to be notified if this project is pursued. Mrs. Tedford shared that when the water collection system was installed at Batz, there were neighbors coming by that had a lot of questions about what was going on. She stated that the Stein Road Park should have a focus on passive recreation offerings; she shared concerns about pursuing something like a dog park on the property. Ms. Houlihan feels that if the site is fully developed into a comprehensive park, a real parking area would need to be created. If the proposed project requires more intensive work than simply adding a bridge, Ms. Houlihan feels that a Public Hearing would be required. Mrs. LaPlante stated that any type of change usually is accompanied by some pushback, but it's usually worth it in the long run.

Chairman Boscarino stated that the position of the Parks and Recreation Commission is open to multiple projects to memorialize Bob, but they would like to have one that can be accomplished in the relatively near future. There is a designated Robert Tedford Fund that is available for donations that can be used however the Committee and the Town sees fit.

Mrs. Tedford mentioned that Eagle Scout Noah Rogers, who created the Fruit Tree Guild at the Batz Property, along with his family, would like to plant a tree in memory of Bob, and she asked if that discussion would fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee. It was agreed that this donation could progress without any official approval of the members; Tim Webb, as the Tree Warden, will be consulted in the selection and planting of the tree.

V. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

Chairman Boscarino suggested that prior to the next meeting, the members should think about their position on the renaming of Brookside Park, and what the exact name should be. Mrs. LaPlante will get the information about what the process of installing memorials on school property would be. First Selectman Spielman asked that the Parks and Recreation Commission assist with forming a more comprehensive plan for the Stein Road property project, and considerations for including memorial ideas for Bob can be discussed further.

Mrs. Kraus reiterated that the two large, park-related options were Brookside Park and Stein Road, and if it was important to the Committee that it be accomplished quickly or whether it can be a longer-term

project. She also confirmed with the Committee that one main purpose and goal of the Committee is to name, wholly or in part, a park in Town after Robert Tedford.

First Selectman Spielman stated that she will prioritize soil testing at the Stein Road property in the near future so that question is answered before moving forward with anything else.

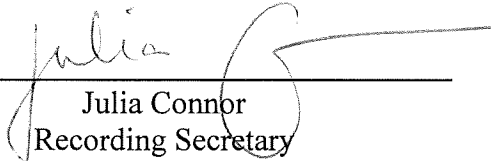
Ms. Tedford expressed an opinion that there are other individuals not on the Committee that have important opinions that should be taken into consideration; Chairman Boscarino will share the thoughts brought up at this meeting with rest of the Parks and Recreation Commission and others members of the Recreation Department to get their input.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Robert Tedford Memorial will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00 pm at the Meeting Hall located on the third floor of the Town Hall.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (LAPLANTE), SECONDED (HOULIHAN), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:37 PM.

Submitted by 
Julia Connor
Recording Secretary