



**TOWN OF BROOKLINE
MASSACHUSETTS**

**REPORTS OF SELECTMEN
AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

on the

Articles in the Warrant

for the

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

to be held in the High School Auditorium

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

at

8:00 P.M.

(Please retain this copy for use at the Town Meeting)

Town of Brookline

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Kenneth M. Goldstein, Chairman

Nancy A. Daly

Betsy DeWitt

Neil A. Wishinsky

Benjamin J. Franco

Melvin A. Kleckner, Town Administrator

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MODERATOR

Edward N. Gadsby, Jr.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Harry K. Bohrs, Chair, 97 Toxteth Street	566-3556
Carla Benka, Vice-Chair, 26 Circuit Road	277-6102
Clifford M. Brown, 9 Hyslop Road	232-5626
Sumner J. Chertok, 80 Park Street, #65	734-1169
Lea Cohen, 1060 Beacon Street, #11	947-9713
John Doggett, 8 Penniman Place	566-5474
Janet Gelbart, 216 St. Paul Street.....	566-5616
Bernard Greene 25 Alton Court, #1	857-225-0402
Kelly Hardebeck, 18 Littell Road	277-2685
Nancy Heller, 40 Abbottsford Rd	277-6108
Amy Hummel, 226 Clark Road	731-0549
Sytske V. Humphrey, 46 Gardner Road	277-1493
Angela Hyatt, 87 Walnut Street	734-3742
Alisa G. Jonas, 333 Russett Road	469-3927
Janice Kahn, 63 Craftsland Road.....	739-0606
Steven Kanes, 89 Carlton Street	232-2202
Bobbie M. Knable, 243 Mason Terrace.....	731-2096
Fred Levitan, 1731 Beacon Street.....	734-1986
Robert Liao, 55 Meadowbrook Road.....	530-988-8887
Pamela Lodish, 195 Fisher Avenue	566-5533
Sean M. Lynn-Jones, 53 Monmouth Street	738-6228
Shaari S. Mittel, 309 Buckminster Road	277-0043
Michael Sandman, 115 Sewall Ave., No. 4	232-7125
Lee L. Selwyn, 285 Reservoir Road	277-3388
Stanley L. Spiegel, 39 Stetson Street	739-0448
Charles Swartz, 69 Centre Street	731-4399
Leonard A. Weiss, 46 Hawthorn Road	277-8403
Karen Wenc, 84 Summit Avenue	232-4983
Christine M. Westphal, 31 Hurd Road.....	738-7981
Anne Braudy, Executive Assistant, Town Hall	730-2115

NOVEMBER 18, 2014
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
INDEX OF WARRANT ARTICLES

ARTICLE
NUMBER

TITLE

1. To Name the Athletic Fields at the Cypress Street Playground the “Thomas P. Hennessey Fields at Cypress Street Playground”. (Selectmen)

2014 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT REPORT

The Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee respectfully submit the following report on Articles in the Warrant to be acted upon at the 2014 Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 8:00 pm.

Note: The following pages of this report are numbered consecutively under each article.

ARTICLE 1

FIRST ARTICLE

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

To see if the Town will approve the name of the athletic fields at the Cypress Street Playground, a town playground designated as Lot 195, Block 09-00 in the Town Assessor's Atlas, as the "Thomas P. Hennessey Fields at Cypress Street Playground",

or act on anything relative thereto.

PETITIONER'S ARTICLE DESCRIPTION

On August 12, 2014, the Naming Committee voted 4-1-1 to recommend to Town Meeting that the athletic fields at the Cypress Street Playground be named the "Thomas P. Hennessey Fields at Cypress Street Playground". The Committee added the provision that the name would terminate ten years after passage by Town Meeting. This followed a unanimous vote from the Park and Recreation Commission in support of the naming of the athletic fields, although the 10-year term limit was not part of the Commission's vote.

This change was recommended by former Selectmen Donna Kalikow, Joe Geller, Mike Merrill and Bob Allen who thought it was an appropriate site to honor the memory of Tom Hennessey. Mr. Hennessey's supporters have also established a 501c3 in order to provide scholarships in his name and to provide support for field maintenance. Tom Hennessey served as a member of the Board of Selectmen for two terms, including one as Chair and as a member of the School Committee for nine years, including two as Chair. He was also an outstanding athlete participating in football, basketball and track while at Brookline High School. He then went on to play football at Holy Cross and was a member of the Boston Patriots from 1965-1966.

After hearing the testimony of several family, friends and colleagues, the Naming Committee agreed that naming the fields after Tom Hennessey was a fitting honor. Themes of integrity, humility and leadership were woven throughout all the stories retold by family and friends. It was clear that Tom Hennessey was an exemplary leader and role model. Naming the fields in his honor will serve as a reminder of the legacy of leadership and service for future generations to emulate.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE NAMING COMMITTEE

The Naming Committee held a public hearing on October 22, 2014 to consider Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting that is being held within the Fall Town Meeting. By a vote of 3-1-1, the Committee recommends favorable action.

Article 1, submitted by the Board of Selectmen, eliminates the sunset provision that was included in the recommendation of the Naming Committee under Article 14 of the Fall Town Meeting warrant. A majority of the Committee agreed that naming the athletic fields at the Cypress Street Playground after former Selectman and School Committee member Thomas Hennessey was a fitting honor. While continuing to express concerns about sustaining the naming right in the long term, which was their rationale for the sunset provision recommended under Article 14, the Committee acknowledged the concerns expressed by the petitioners and others about sunsetting the name of the facility and ultimately voted in favor of Article 1.

SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATION

Article 1 is a proposal to name the athletic fields at the Cypress Street Playground the "Thomas P. Hennessey Fields at Cypress Street Playground". The Board chose to set a Special Town Meeting within the Special Town meeting in order to eliminate the sunset provision that was present in Article 14 of the Special Town Meeting. The Board believes that honoring someone with a naming right should be done without a time limitation. Since eliminating the provision in Article 14 would be outside the scope of that warrant article, the most expeditious way to address the time frame issue was to file a separate warrant article.

Tom Hennessey served as a role model for outstanding leadership in all aspects of his life. From his days as an athlete first at Brookline High School onto Holy Cross and then with the Boston Patriots, Tom was the epitome of the humble athlete whose hard work and dedication inspired those around him to elevate their level of play. Tom Hennessey served as a member of the Board of Selectmen for two terms, including one as Chair and as a member of the School Committee for nine years, including two as Chair. Many can attest to Tom's dedication to giving back to the town he loved so dearly. His leadership while on the Board and School Committee guided the Town through some very challenging times. His decisions were always made in a respectable and thoughtful manner with a level of empathy for those affected by the issue at hand. Tom was never self-serving and always had the best interest of the Town in mind when faced with a difficult decision. Tom was equally as dedicated in his professional life as a Boston school teacher, administrator and headmaster for almost 40 years, but it is likely his love and devotion to his family that will be his greatest accomplishment.

The Board agrees that Tom's character, courage and leadership are worthy of this honor and therefore we unanimously voted in favor of this warrant article. Therefore, by a vote of 5-0 taken on October 14, 2014, the board recommends FAVORABLE ACTION the following:

VOTED: that the Town approve the name of the athletic fields at the Cypress Street Playground, a town playground designated as Lot 195, Block 09-00 in the

Town Assessor's Atlas, as the "Thomas P. Hennessey Fields at Cypress Street Playground".

ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

The Advisory Committee recommends **Favorable Action** on the following motion under Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting being held within the Fall Town Meeting, by a vote of 19 – 0 – 4 :

VOTED: That the Town approve the name of the athletic fields at the Cypress Street Playground, a town playground designated as Lot 195, Block 09-00 in the Town Assessor's Atlas, as the "Thomas P. Hennessey Fields at Cypress Street Playground."

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Please see the report offered under Article 14 of the Fall Town Meeting.

XXX

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Kenneth M. Goldstein, Chair
Nancy A. Daly
Betsy DeWitt
Neil A. Wishinsky
Benjamin J. Franco

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Harry Bohrs, Chair