

**PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE**

**MINUTES**

**June 13, 2014**

**7:45 am at Warren**

**Attending:**

Jennifer Halloran, WYF	Janet Bowser, NRC	Ed Lasch, WUSC
Trip Sheehan, Recreation	Andy Wrobel, Recreation	Mike Pakstis, DPW
Mike Quinn, DPW	Don McCauley, Board of Selectmen	
Mike Jennings, Lacrosse	Owen Dugan, BPW	Tammy Siemering, WHS student
Bob Siemering, Resident	Patti Quigley, School Comm.	Jeanette DeBiase, Little League
John Brown, AD	Jan Kaseta, Recreation	

**Minutes from: April 11 & May 9, 2014**

Motion: To accept the minutes from April 11 and May 9, 2014.  
Seconded: By Mike Jennings  
Vote: All in favor

**Field User Fees:**

We currently charge \$15 per youth sport user (\$10 to grass account & \$5 to turf account)

The turf fields were put in during 2008 and should last about 10 years.

Tripp's calculations show that at our current rate, we will be short approximately \$500,000 at the end of the 10 year period. Additionally, the other account takes in an average of \$60,000 per year and the DPW actually needs \$95-\$100,000 per year to cover costs.

Mike Pakstis felt that the fund was never meant to cover the entire cost of the turf replacement.

Tripp asked for feedback from those in attendance from the Youth Sports.

Ed Lasch said that the youth fees could go up without an issue. However, he felt that fees shouldn't be raised until the Town makes some commitment to fix fields that need it, including the HS stadium.

Both Ed and Mike Jennings pointed out that the youth soccer participants, included in their fee, are paying \$35 toward the Sprague debt.

Jeanette DiBiase pointed out that LL/Softball does not use the turf fields, yet pays into that account.

Additionally, softball actually loses a field during certain times as soccer uses the outfield.

Patti suggested raising fees in the Spring. Mike J. suggested raising it to \$30 and splitting it evenly between the two accounts.

Motion: By Patti Quigley to increase the user fee this fall from \$15 per participant to \$30 per participant, with equal parts going to grass and turf accounts.  
Seconded: By Ed Lasch  
Vote: All in favor

**Priority Ranking of Fields:**

Tripp distributed a field spread sheet.

Patti Q. reported that the HS Stadium Task Force has been put on hold for now. She has reported to the School Committee that this group will be taking a look at all fields and determining a priority ranking for maintenance and use.

Ed Lasch said that although soccer needs at least 3 11x11 fields, the biggest priority should be the HS Stadium.

Patti said that she is dedicated to following through with the need to do something with the HS Stadium.

Don McCauley said that the Selectmen have also discussed it.

- Motion: By Ed Lasch stating that the renovation of the HS Stadium (field & Track) is the number one priority in terms of field maintenance.
- Seconded: By Mike Jennings
- Vote: All in favor

Mike Jennings and Ed Lasch said that the issue of lights should also be included in the proposal.

Ed said that if the HS project is to be privately funded, not having lights will make it difficult.

Don M. said that now that some of the elementary school issues have or are being addressed, there is an opening to discuss the HS Stadium. He also said that the North 40 presents an opportunity to present a wish list from this group.

Tripp said that we may need to meet in July.

John Brown suggested a subcommittee to put together a list of needs that could be potentially presented to the North 40 Committee.

**General Field Discussion:**

- HS Field closed June – August for re-sodding.
- Mike Quinn, John Brown & Jeannette DiBiase met with the HS Softball coach and parents to talk about some improvements, such as electric hookups, batting cages, pitching machines, and storage.

**Next Meeting:**

To Be Determined

- Motion: To adjourn by Ed Lasch
- Seconded: Mike Jennings
- Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am