

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

November 14, 2014

7:45 am at Warren

Attending:

Trip Sheehan, Recreation	Owen Dugan, BPW	Mike Quinn, DPW
Ed Lasch, WUSC	Stephen Murphy, NRC	Jay Russell, Softball
Bill Darcey, WYH	Mike Jennings, Lacrosse	John Brown, AD
Joe Roberts, WLL	Rick Kinney, WLL	Patti Quigley, School Comm.
Eric Lussier, WLL		
Jan Kaseta, Recreation		

Guests: Gig Babson & Tom Ulfelder, Town Government Study Committee

Minutes from: September 5, 2014

Motion: To accept the minutes from September 5, 2014, by Steve Murphy
Seconded: By Bill Darcey
Vote: All in favor

Town Government Study Committee: Gig Babson & Tom Ulfelder

Gig and Tom gave a brief synopsis of the committee and its goals.

Tripp gave some background on PFTF, how it was formed, membership and its Mission Statement.

Gig asked, “Generally, how does it work?” “Do you have a budget?”

Tripp said that we do not have a budget, but do collect field fees to be used by DPW for field maintenance. He further explained the unique nature of so many boards, staff and citizens who represent various sports working together.

Patti Quigley said that as well as the Task Forces works, it is somewhat dysfunctional and there is no central place for field permitting. Some permits come from Recreation, some from NRC and any permission to use fields or facilities (such as the track) at the high school is okayed by the AD.

Mike Quinn stated that the PFTF has been very helpful to DPW/Parks in terms of determining both field maintenance and the capital budget.

Tom Ulfelder asked if there was a central system for field permits. Jan explained that the Recreation software has the capability to do this, but the user groups haven’t been interested in using it. Tripp explained that, for example, rescheduling games due to rain outs is best done by having the involved parties figure it out and they wouldn’t want fields to appear available only to have to use them for makeup games.

Tom also asked if there were conflicts with NRC having different values or standards for land use. Most felt NRC does have a different mission for land use that does sometimes impact use of active play areas.

Mike Jennings said that he felt this group has accomplished its initial task of getting user groups to use fields fairly. He said that he would like to see the town recognize the group for their expertise when addressing field issues.

Town Government Study – continued

A lengthy discussion took place about the High School Stadium and the difficulty in getting any one group to take on that project, as the land is owned by NRC, yet it is used primarily by Schools. Jay Russell talked about the possibility of gate receipts, from a number of sports, to help defray expenses. Joe Roberts took this opportunity to add that the Town is lacking in indoor space also. Tripp said that the group has discussed the possibility of becoming the Playing Fields and Facilities Task Force.

Tom & Gig earlier had explained that notes taken by them will be available to PFTF members for review to ensure that information is accurately portrayed.

Plan to Rest Fields:

Tripp asked the Youth Sports Representatives to meet with Mike Quinn to determine which fields at Sprague need to be rested this summer. Jan Kaseta raised the point that summer use doesn't affect youth sports, it affects outside camps that rent space. She explained that there isn't any other place for them to go. Work being done at schools this summer means that camps would not have access to bathrooms or indoor space (in the event of rain). These amenities are required by State Regulations. She also explained that elimination of fields may affect user fee revenue. Jan & Mike Q. will discuss the issue. Mike will email Jan the fields to be rested and the dates.

Ed Lasch suggested perhaps we lower the camp fee for turf use at Sprague so that camps will use it.

General Field Discussion:

John Brown asked Mike Quinn about adding in fill to the turf fields. Mike explained that TPE has been ordered, but, since it comes from overseas, it is a long process.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be December 12, 21014

Motion: To adjourn by Owen Dugan
Seconded: Mike Jennings
Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 9 am