WELLESLEY RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 11, 2019
5 pm at Warren Building

Attending:
Mr., Stuntz, Mr. Wolfson, Mr. Rodrigue and Mr. Chin,
Mrs. Beth Sullivan Woods (BOS), Mary Scanlon (Advisory) & Nicole Bernier (resident)

Motion: To accept the amended minutes to reflect Mr. Rodrigue motioned to adjourn from January 14, 2019 by Mr. Rodrigue
Seconded: Mr. Wolfson
Vote: All Commissioners in Attendance in favor.

1. Citizen Speak: None

2. Advisory Presentation: Discussion regarding Advisory presentation and messaging to the residents, the potential change in the Department revolving account. Mrs. Scanlon commended the Commission on their presentation and inquired if a reduction to the budget is needed, could they adjust to get below guideline?

3. PFTF Charter

Motion: To accept PFTF Charter as presented by Mr. Stuntz
Seconded: Mr. Rodrigue
Vote: All Commissioners in in attendance in favor.

4. PFTF Field Use Policy

Motion: To accept PFTF Field Use Policy as presented by Mr. Stuntz
Seconded: Mr. Rodrigue
Vote: All Commissioners in in attendance in favor.

5. Directors Report: In the next month or two, the Department will be looking for guidance/approval on fee increase for Teen Center memberships.

Motion: To adjourn by Mr. Rodrigue
Seconded: Mr. Wolfson
Vote: All Commissioners in in attendance in favor.

NEXT MEETING: TBA March 2019 – 5pm at The Warren Building.
TO: Board of Selectmen, Board of Public Works, Natural Resources Commission, Recreation Commission, School Committee
FROM: Playing Fields Task Force
DATE: February 8, 2019
RE: Revisions to the PFTF Charter and Playing Fields Policy

The Playing Fields Task Force is requesting your approval of changes to our Charter and the Playing Fields Policy. As our responsible boards, your approval is needed before these changes can take effect.

Background

The goal of the PFTF is to provide a forum for the management of active athletic space in Town, consistent with the wishes of the responsible boards to whom Town Meeting has assigned the care, custody, and control of parcels of Town land.

Charter Changes

Please see the attached red-lined document for the full proposal; however, there are a few changes we want to call your attention to:

- The Board of Selectmen would be added as a voting member. The BoS have been participating for some time; we believe this was an oversight that they were not included formally prior.
- Wellesley Youth Hockey would not be a member going forward, as their involvement was principally related to the planning and design of the 900 Worcester Street project, which is now under construction.
- Clarity would be added to the fee collection process, with the Charter now specifically referencing Article 55 of the Town Bylaws.
- Timing for the deadline of the PFTF’s annual report would shift from December to August. Making this change will allow us to be included in the Annual Town Report.

Policy Changes

Similar to the Charter, the red-lined version will contain all of the revisions. The major change to highlight is the Fee Structure section. The current Policy states that fees may be expended by the Board of Public Works after consultation with the Recreation Commission and the Natural Resources Commission. We cannot recall this actually occurring and, more importantly, the process is not in accordance Article 55. That bylaw authorizes the DPW as the sole agent able to withdraw from the fee accounts (within the annual withdrawal cap set by Town Meeting). The new language aligns to Article 55.

Additionally, the revisions clean up the wording of the fee list and clarify how dollars are segregated across the fee accounts. They also reflect the addition of the track as a rentable asset. Finally, the new version confirms that some of the fees collected can be used to offset the
PFTF’s costs of collecting, processing, and depositing the fees, assuming your and Town Meeting support of an amendment to the bylaw language at the Annual Town Meeting.

Thank you for your support of the PFTF’s work and your consideration of these proposed revisions to our governing documents.
Town of Wellesley

Playing Fields Policy

Purpose: This policy is intended to be the framework for managing the priority and usage of active playing fields in the Town of Wellesley. Excepting the Fee Structure contained herein, which is set by the Playing Fields Task Force ("PFTF"), this policy has been approved by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Public Works, Natural Resources Commission, School Committee, and the Recreation Commission. The policy is administered by the Recreation Department under the guidance of the PFTF.

History: In 1997, the Natural Resources Commission established the PFTF. The PFTF consists of representatives from the major user groups (Youth Baseball/Softball, Youth Soccer, Youth Lacrosse, Youth Football, Youth Field Hockey, Adult Softball) and landowners (Recreation Commission, Natural Resources Commission, Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Board of Public Works) as well as a citizen at-large. The purpose of this Task Force is to identify strategies for field maintenance (including methods for funding) and to work together to identify ways to meet field use demands while recognizing scarce resources. The PFTF generally meets monthly. In 2004, the Recreation Commission took over sponsorship of the PFTF. Voting privileges are limited to the elected officials from the five responsible boards and one representative each from the major user groups, as well as the citizen at-large, consistent with the PFTF Charter. Staff from the five boards may vote when acting with appropriate board member proxy power.

Playing Field and Track Permits:

Organized or regular use of the Town’s track or playing fields by groups shall require a permit. Regular meetings of a group or individuals are considered organized use and similarly require a permit. If any such group does not have a permit and there are residents who want to use the High School track or any fields for recreational use, then the residents shall have priority to use the track or fields.

Use of the High School track or active playing fields requires a permit from the Recreation Department. Use of passive land and Town-wide special events requires a permit from the Natural Resources Commission.

Requests for permits by the Youth Leagues (Soccer, Baseball/Softball, Lacrosse, Football, Field Hockey) will be done on a seasonal basis and must be made by the following dates:

April 1 – Spring
June 1 – Summer
August 1 – Fall

It is expected that the representatives from each league will meet with each other and coordinate with the School Department Athletic Director, to agree on field use availability and needs prior to submitting permit requests to the Recreation Director. The Youth Leagues will work together to submit a master schedule to the Recreation Department. In the event that disputes cannot be resolved, the Recreation Director will be responsible for making a final decision. Blanket seasonal permits are issued to the Youth Leagues for both practice times and game times. Coaches are not assigned to specific practice times. Permits are not transferable and are only valid for the permit holder. A permit may not be sub-let to a different organization without the authorization of the PFTF.

PFTF members from the responsible boards will be given field status updates by DPW and will be consulted in order to ensure that fields under their control are not adversely impacted by overuse. If any board determines that an overuse condition exists or any field is being used in a manner inconsistent with such board’s policies, the board reserves the right to restrict or further condition issuance of permits.

User Groups / Priority of Use:

Permits are issued based on the following priorities:

1) Town-Wide Special Events: This includes events such as “town days,” memorial services, and fairs. The NRC will issue permits for these events. The NRC will coordinate with the Recreation Director and the Athletic Director to determine if these events will impact previously scheduled athletic or permitted events.

2) School Use: The School Department has the next priority use of fields and the High School track over any other group, including the Youth Leagues. School Department use includes athletic games, practices, and other special events.

Coaches Clinics: School Department coaches who wish to run clinics must present a letter of support from the Athletic Director to the Recreation Director. Spring (April) vacation clinics must be booked by March 1. Coaches understand that spring clinics may be cancelled due to track or field conditions. Summer clinics must be booked by June 1. A fee will be charged.

3) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues: Youth Leagues will be allotted hours based on season and participant numbers. It is expected that these groups will work together to ensure equitable use of all fields, coordinate with any resident youth sport group utilizing the High School track, and try to make
accommodations for each other in the event of unforeseen scheduling changes
during the season. Wellesley Youth Leagues may also run in-house clinics for
their members. Clinic times are limited to the days and times listed on their
permit or a new permit must be issued.

4) **Wellesley Recreation Department Programs:** Use of fields or the High School
track for camps, clinics and programs, which are run by the Recreation
Department, will not preempt the Youth Leagues. When these programs are
run during youth sport seasons, all attempts will be made to limit them to
using the field area at the Warren Recreation building. Recreation may use
other fields during the summer, as long as the fields are not adversely
impacted by overuse. The Recreation Department offers these programs in
support of its general mission to provide affordable recreational activities.

5) **Wellesley Resident Adult Groups:** Adult leagues or clubs (e.g. soccer clubs,
running clubs, etc.) must be organized with the primary intention of
supporting Town residents. Leagues or clubs may compete with teams from
other towns, but one Wellesley team must be involved in the match. Leagues
or clubs must give priority to Town residents when filling rosters. Wellesley
teams or clubs must be able to prove that 75% of the memberships are
Wellesley residents or are Town of Wellesley employees. Team rosters must
be turned in to the Recreation Director prior to the start of the season.

6) **Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use:** The Town recognizes that residents
may want to use fields or the High School track for one time uses such as
birthday parties, neighborhood activities, etc. No fee is charged for children’s
birthday parties. A fee is required for other events.

7) **Charitable Groups:** If field space is available, as determined by the
Recreation Director, groups who are hosting an event to raise money for
charity will be given a permit for a field or the High School track for no fee.

8) **Non-Resident Groups / Non-Recreation Department Camps and Clinics:** A
non-resident group is defined as one whose membership is less than 75%
Wellesley residents or Town of Wellesley employees. Use by non-residents
will be limited to baseball, softball, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, and track.
Use of fields or the High School track by non-resident groups will be
dependent on conditions and availability. The Recreation Department may
arrange for field use by outside camps during the summer months.

**Fee Structure:**

Field and track use fees are collected by the Recreation Department and are then
segregated into account(s) dedicated to playing fields maintenance and PFTF
administrative costs, consistent with Article 55 of the Town Bylaws. The PFTF shall
advise the DPW on the use of funds in said accounts. How fees are credited between the
two funds shall be determined by the PFTF considering future field needs. Annual reports will be given to the PFTF and the responsible boards on the funds collected and the uses of the fees. The PFTF sets the following as the fees to be collected:

1) Town-wide Special Events: No fee,
2) School Use: No fee,
3) School Coach(es) Clinics: $15 per participant,
4) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues: $30 per participant per season ($15 to Turf Field Fund),
5) Wellesley Resident Youth League Clinics: $15 per participant,
6) Wellesley Recreation Department Programs: No fee,
7) Organized Use of the High School Track: $15 per participant per season; if not a seasonal rental: $150,
8) Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell) for Adult Softball: $40 per participant per season ($25 to light account),
9) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use: $50 for a grass field, including the Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell), but $75 if using lights (incremental $25 to light account); $75 for a turf field,
10) Charitable Groups: No fee,
11) Non-Resident (Adults and Youth): Grass field and Sprague turf field: $150; High School turf field: $375 (fee is for field use only; utilization of scoreboard and sound system is not allowed), and
12) Non-Recreation Department Camps: $35 per participant on a grass field; $50 per participant on a turf field. (Camps catering to participants over the age of twelve years shall, whenever available, be assigned to turf fields),
13) All track and field rentals that are not charged per participant are figured in increments of 1.5 hours.

Fees collected shall be deposited into the DPW Field Use Fund, unless otherwise noted or a rental of a turf field; revenue from turf field rentals shall be deposited into the Turf Field Fund.

General Field Use Rules:

Hours of Operation: Fields may be used until dusk with the exception of the lighted Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell). Lights may remain on until 9:30 pm,
except for Reidy Field, where lights may remain on until 9:45 pm. No play before 8:00 am on Sunday at any field that abuts homeowners.

Prohibited Activities: Any prohibited activities posted on signage at the High School track or at any fields, consumption/possession of drugs or alcoholic beverages, use of fields beyond permitted dates or times, use of grass fields during wet field conditions or before they are declared available for use, and any activity that may cause field damage. Users must show good judgment when using fields and must stop play if the field shows damage during activity. Any group who causes damage to any field will be responsible for repair costs.

Field Closures: Check wellesleyma.gov/1049/Playing-Fields-OpenClosed-Status or call (781) 235-2370 for the latest field closures. If a field is closed, no use is permitted at all. The field status webpage are for informational purposes only; field signage and/or direct communication from the Wellesley DPW Park and Tree Division (DPW) take precedence. Whenever possible, the DPW will email user groups and post signs when fields are closed.

Please note that grass fields can be closed even when the weather appears good at the time because of standing water, previous damage, or other field condition issues. The DPW, in consultation with the PFTF, will recommend when fields should be closed in order to rest them to prevent significant damage from overuse and/or for maintenance reasons.

Weather: Because lightning can strike up to ten miles from a storm, users should seek safe shelter as soon as they hear thunder or see lightning. They should wait for thirty minutes without hearing thunder or seeing lightning before returning to the field.

Maintenance of Baseball/Softball Infields: Baseball/softball players and coaches are expected to groom the infields after each game and practice. Equipment for grooming is supplied and coaches are responsible for knowing the storage box combinations.

Litter, Trash, and Recycling: All users are responsible for picking up any trash and/or litter on the field at the completion of their practice or game session, regardless of whether this trash was there when they first got on the field or not. **Pick up trash when you leave the field, even if it is not yours.** Consider naming team captains at each practice or game to oversee litter collection and recycling.

Users are expected to use trash and recycling receptacles located on or near the fields or to take their waste home for disposal. If the group expects to generate excess trash, they must provide a means for removing trash themselves. Bring a trash bag with you to games and practices. Please pick up and recycle all plastic bottles. Inform coaches, players, players’ families, and attendees at games and
practices that there are water fountains at the majority of the active playing fields and that **participants are strongly encouraged to utilize reusable and refillable water bottles for all practices and games.**

The last group to use a field for the day is responsible for leaving a clean, litter-free field.

If you consistently find trash when you arrive at the field please notify the [Recreation Department at recreation@wellesleyma.gov or (781) 235-2370](mailto:recreation@wellesleyma.gov) who will attempt to identify the users who might be leaving the field in such condition.

Users are urged to support the preservation and sustainability of Wellesley’s playing fields through responsible use of the fields and respect for those who neighbor the fields. It is the responsibility of all coaches, managers, referees, and parents to lead by example by educating our children on the proper use of field space and emphasizing the importance of caring for our community assets and maintaining a clean environment.

Concerns related to the maintenance/condition of the High School track or any field should be addressed to the Assistant Superintendent/Deputy Tree Warden of the Park Division at dpw@wellesleyma.gov.
PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE
Charter

Membership

The Playing Fields Task Force ("Task Force") shall consist of:

- a representative each from the Recreation Commission and department staff,
- a representative each from the Natural Resources Commission and department staff,
- a representative each from the Board of Public Works and department staff,
- a representative each from the School Committee and department staff,
  - a representative from the Board of Selectmen,
  - a representative from the Wellesley United Soccer Club,
  - a representative from the Wellesley Youth Baseball/Softball Association,
  - a representative from the Wellesley Youth Lacrosse Club,
  - a representative from Wellesley Youth Football,
  - a representative from Wellesley Scoops Field Hockey Club,
  - a representative from the Wellesley Men’s Softball League; and
- a Wellesley citizen at-large to be appointed by the Playing Fields Task Force.

Staff shall be non-voting members except when acting with appropriate board member proxy power.

Other organizations may be invited to attend and participate in Task Force processes, but shall not have voting representation.

Term

The term of office for board members shall be at the discretion of their respective board or commission. The term of the citizen at-large shall be three years commencing on July 1, 2017.

Duties

The Task Force is established:

- to develop and maintain the master plan for the reconfiguration, use, maintenance, and improvement of active recreational playing fields throughout the Town of Wellesley for approval/action by the appropriate responsible boards, namely the: Recreation Commission, Natural Resources Commission, Board of Public Works, Board of Selectmen, and School Committee,

- to provide recommendations to the responsible boards for capital funding appropriations for playing field improvements, and to provide active support for those funding requests throughout the funding approval process,
to keep their departments and boards fully informed as to any PFTF-supported capital projects and to obtain their boards and departments timely approval for such projects,

- to recommend and implement field use policy,

- to set field user fees, those fees to be deposited in a DPW dedicated playing field account, account(s) dedicated to playing fields maintenance and PFTF administrative costs, consistent with Article 55 of the Town Bylaws, and advise on their use,

- to monitor playing fields status including condition, frequency, and intensity of use,

- to rate field conditions and compare them to fields in other communities,

- to work with other boards to investigate the availability of privately-owned playing fields, and fields in other communities, and

- to act as a forum to resolve overlapping requirements among field users.

**Committee Leadership**

The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair whose terms shall be one year commencing July 1 and ending June 30. The Recreation Department staff representative shall serve as secretary.

**Annual Report**

The Task Force shall submit an annual report to the responsible boards on or before the second Friday in August, and file a copy with the Town Clerk.
INTRODUCTION

Weston & Sampson was retained during the fall of 2018 by the Town of Wellesley to develop a strategy for upgrading two softball fields at the Hunnewell Field property. To date the following work has been completed:

- Project Kick-off Meeting
- Development of Concept Plans
- Flagging of Wetlands Resource Areas
- Topographic and Detail Survey (completed by Wellesley Engineering Staff)
- Schematic Design
- Working Committee Meetings
- Public Information Meeting (hosted by the Natural Resources Commission)

Working Group members included representatives from the DPW, High School Athletics Department, Natural Resources Commission, Recreation Department, various sports and recreation leagues, and consultant team

PROJECT GOALS

The Town’s goals for the project include renovating the fields to improve softball facilities, and an assessment of field location, use and alignment, the addition of dugouts, fencing, seating scoreboards, storage, improved accessibility, drainage and infield and turf conditions. The improvements will allow for Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association sanctioned softball games to be played on premises and bring the Town into alignment with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. In addition, renovations must be done in a fashion that preserves the essential character and quality of natural features located within the park.

The softball fields to be improved include the Lee Softball Field and the Hunnewell Softball Field (also known as Field #2). Lee Field and Hunnewell Field are located near Washington Street and in the extreme northeastern and middle western sections of the property respectively.
Aerial image showing the locations of the Hunnewell and Lee softball diamonds.

Prior Studies

Numerous studies have reported on the conditions of the softball fields including:

Geller Report 2003
Gale Analysis October 2017
PFTF Memorandum June 2018

The PFTF (Playing Field Task Force) memorandum concluded that the two softball diamonds should remain in their current geographic locations and be renovated to achieve higher performance. The other studies contain substantial information about the two softball diamonds and other sports and recreation facilities located at the Hunnewell Field property and each document sets forward a series of recommendations. The Gale report also recommended that the two softball field diamonds be renovated in place. The Geller report explored the entire property and made no recommendations for the Lee Softball Field footprint and identified two synthetic turf field options for the Hunnewell Field, which of course were never acted on.

Current Conditions

Conditions at the two softball fields can be characterized generally as poor to fair and both diamonds lack many of the typical accommodations associated with well-performing facilities of their type. Elements considered to be substandard or otherwise problematic include:
- Turf
- Field grading
- Field drainage
- Backstop
- Players' benches
- Bleachers
- ADA accommodations
- Field alignment
- Field configuration and footprint (distances)
- Lack of other support features and amenities
- Interference from adjacent vegetation

Conceptual Design Analysis

To commence the conceptual design effort, we prepared a user matrix and a plan diagram that identifies property-wide field footprints/alignments for both the spring and fall playing seasons. We have included the diagram and a corresponding matrix below. An important conclusion was that except for Lee Field and Reidy Little League Field, all other field footprints within the larger property presently overlap each other and accommodate a wide range of school and community based sports and recreation activities during multiple seasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIELDS</th>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>FIELD USE</th>
<th>TEAMS</th>
<th>CONSTRAINTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hunnewell Field (Field #2)</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>G + P</td>
<td>Girls Softball,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Mens League</td>
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<td>Reidy Field</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>G + P</td>
<td>Little League</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-Use Fields (Field Hockey Area)</td>
<td>Lacrosse</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Girls LAX</td>
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<td>Baseball Fields (Field #1 A + B)</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>G + P</td>
<td>Varsity, JV</td>
<td>Shared Outfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee Softball</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>G + P</td>
<td>Girls Softball</td>
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<td>Stadium Field</td>
<td>Lacrosse</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Boys/ Girls LAX</td>
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<td>Tennis</td>
<td>G + P</td>
<td>Varsity, JV</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Weston & Sampson developed five alternative sports and recreation facility alignment concepts for the Hunnewell Field property. The alternatives considered the entire property, excluding the Reidy Little League Field and recently renovated track and field complex located adjacent to Smith Street. The five alternative concepts were presented to the Working Group and after careful analysis and considerable discussion a preferred plan (Concept Plan A) was confirmed. The other four concepts were deemed less desirable and not advanced for reasons that included:
- Potential impacts to wetland resources and/or other natural areas and systems
- Potential impacts to residential abutters
- Cost implications
- Potential impacts to other sports and recreation facility footprints
- Introduction of new overlapping sports use on fields that presently have no/limited rest periods creating additional stress to turf conditions

Concept Plan D (shown below) was given some consideration but ultimately it was agreed not to pursue it for multiple reasons, including many of those listed above. Other potentially adverse implications associated with the relocation of the primary high school girls’ softball field to this Concept Plan D Location included:

- Need to construct impervious elements adjacent to the pond
- Impact to girls’ junior varsity lacrosse field including displacement of many team sports during a potential 1 year construction phase
- Impact to other field footprints including freshman field hockey and girls’ lacrosse
- Lack of benefit associated with a new multi-use field located at the current Lee Field
- Drainage and FEMA floodplain limitations and project permitting complications
- Construction cost

Primary benefits of this concept include achieving the desired playing field orientation, configuration and the required distances to center, left and right fields and much closer proximity to the high school. Yet the benefits do not outweigh adverse impacts and cost implications are significant, since large quantities of fill and extensive subdrainage systems would be required to correct chronic drainage problems. Concept Plan D, in its entirety is estimated to cost well in excess of $2M.

After completing the conceptual design analysis phase, it was agreed to pursue Concept Plan A as described on the following pages.

**Recommended Schematic Design**

After multiple meetings and advanced discussions with the Working Committee, the completion of numerous on-site field and site inspections, review of site mapping and consideration of previous planning efforts, the Weston & Sampson sports + recreation team concluded that Concept Plan A was best aligned with town goals and objectives. This plan also best serves the various
stakeholder groups by best meeting their needs and expectations. This conclusion is also aligned with the conclusions reached last year by the Playing Field Task Force and includes confirmation of the strategy to renovate fields within their current geographic location. The reasons for this have been well documented during various meetings and can be summarized below:

- Achieves improved field alignment
- Achieves required cutofffield dimensions (185' to left and right fields foul poles and 225' to straight away center field)
- Less impactful to school and community sports and recreation program scheduling
- Provides opportunities to enhance wetland resource areas
- Provides opportunities to enhance the aesthetic and environmental character of the park landscape through the introduction of new, native landscape plantings
- Provides opportunities for improvements to habitat and creates opportunities for the establishment of enhanced stormwater management and environmental education
- Provides positive benefit to residential abutters by shifting the field close to the tennis complex, limiting impacts to existing vegetation and by introducing new plantings
- Best fits Town's budget expectations and is clearly lower cost (by a factor of 2x or 3x) compared to other options
- Construction impacts related to the field renovations will be less disruptive to sports and recreation programs on a short-term basis
Lee Softball Field—this renovation strategy achieves many of the goals established by the town at the outset of the project and importantly it will allow the high school girls softball team to enjoy a new level of facility parody when compared to other sports and their respective playing venues.

Concept Diagram A shows a new field configuration superimposed upon the existing field configuration. The field shifts generally to the southwest and closer to an intermittent stream channel by approximately 12 feet. This achieves:

- Improved ancillary facilities (players’ benches, spectator seating, storage and pedestrian/ADA accommodations)
- Adequate left, center and right field dimensions/distances
- Greater setback from residential abutters to the northeast
- Opportunities for new landscape enhancements

Improvements will also include upgrades to infield and outfield areas, refined grading and drainage and higher quality/performing turf throughout.

Importantly, an intermittent stream flows southerly below Washington Street (via a culvert) and between Lee Field and the tennis court complex. After a 90 degree bend the intermittent stream flows southwesterly along the aqueduct/Community Path before entering a culvert. The culvert traverses the fields located to the southeast of the aqueduct and enters Fuller Brook. About half of the softball field is located within jurisdictional intermittent stream buffer zone. The intermittent stream itself occupies a narrow channel with limited wetlands vegetation and habitat value.

In order to achieve the desired improvement to the Lee Softball Field footprint, it is proposed to culvert approximately 150 LF of the intermittent stream channel. This will require approval of the Wetlands Protection Committee and project proponents, as part of a Notice of Intent permitting process, and will have to provide evidence that standards established by the Wetlands Protection Act are being met. In conjunction with the culverting of this stream section it is proposed to
construct a new wetlands resource area to the north and west of the existing pedestrian bridge that links the parking lot to Lee Field (refer to Concept Diagram A1, Landscape Enhancement Area 1). The current area is low lying, maintained as lawn and it is seasonally wet but typically dry during warmer, summer months.

The potential benefit of a constructed wetland would be multiple as summarized below:

- Allow considerable upgrades to the Lee Softball Field playing venue as described above
- Create a new educational resource area
- Provide stormwater quality enhancements
- Provide improved habitat

The concept of culverting the intermittent stream was vetted at a public information meeting hosted by the Natural Resources Commission on December 6, 2018 and has also been introduced to the Wetlands Protection Committee’s liaison with much more discussion and additional details required to advance this proposal. It should be noted that the intermittent stream conveys mostly roadway stormwater water from Washington Street and during certain times of year (particularly warmer, dryer periods) no water is conveyed, hence its intermittent characterization. In this way, the intermittent stream channel appears and performs much differently compared to Fuller Brook, Caroline Brook and Abbot Brook, all which flow through a portion of the larger property.

Schematic Plan A1 identifies Landscape Enhancement Zone B. Work in this area would include the installation of mixed native vegetation to expand tree canopy and eliminate areas requiring frequent mowing. Shade trees and understory plantings (evergreen and deciduous) are envisioned and this would yield enhanced habitat and visual buffering between the field and residential abutters.

**Hunnewell Softball Field (Field #2)**- like the Lee Softball Field strategy, the renovation approach at the Hunnewell Softball Field achieves many goals.

Plan Diagram A2 shows the new field configuration superimposed upon the existing field configuration. The field shifts generally to the east and closer to the aqueduct/Community Path and tennis court complex. This achieves:

- Improved ancillary facilities (player’s benches, spectator seating, storage and pedestrian/ADA accommodations)
- Adequate left and center field dimensions/distances and maintaining the shorter distance to right field (typically the power alley for left-handed batters) due to the proximity of the community path/aqueduct
- Greater setback from the mature White Oak tree that defines the southwestern edge of the infield area, which means fewer impacts to play caused by interfering overhanging tree branches

Improvements will also include upgrades to infield and outfield areas, refined grading and drainage and higher quality/performing turf throughout.
Conclusion

Based on completed analysis, we believe the recommended renovation strategies set forth herein achieve an appropriate balance by establishing higher performing playing venues consistent with other Town facilities for other sports and recreation uses while being respectful of abutters and the inherent natural features that prevail within the Hunnewell Field property.