

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

March 10, 2022

7:45 am online zoom meeting

Attending:

Voting Members:

Beth Sullivan Woods – Select Board (SB); Linda Chow – School Committee (SC); Jeff Wechsler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Ansley Martin – Soccer (S); Kelly Uller – Field Hockey (FH); Rick Kinney - Wellesley Little League (WLL); Amy Munchak – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Maura Renzella – Football (F)

Board/Commission staff and other guests:

Matt Chin – RC; John Brown– SC; Kyle Williams – SC; Paul DePhillips – BPW; Tim Bania – BPW; Chris Howard – S; Ann Williams – WLL; Wendy Paul – Advisory; Lara Crawford – Resident; Jim Miller – Resident;

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:45
2. Citizen Speak:
 - a. Lara Crawford, 15 Rice St. Ms. Crawford stated that she is a softball parent, but that in 2021 all of her daughter’s games scheduled for Lee Field had to be rescheduled due to poor drainage of the field and she asked what the town is doing to ensure that Lee is playable. Paul DePhillips commented that DPW is planning to replace the infield at Lee Field with the same material that is used on the other diamond fields in town. This work is planned for this spring.
3. Minutes:
 - a. Linda submitted an addition to the minutes to be added to the WHS Track and Field project update emphasizing School Committee’s plans to build in mechanisms, similar to what had been done at Sprague Fields Complex, that would make expansion of usage under the lights more difficult.

Motion: By Beth Sullivan Woods: to approve the February 11, 2022 minutes as amended by Linda Chow

Seconded: Linda Chow

Vote:

In favor: Woods, Chow, Wechsler, Stuntz, Bezmalinovic, Nigro, Martin, Uller, Kinney, Munchak, Renzella

4. Hardy School Playing Field
 - a. Melissa Martin, School Committee, introduced Alex Pitkin and Michael Dowhan of SMMA who are designing the Hardy School replacement. The project is in the Design/Development phase and they are hoping to put a rectangular playing field on the Weston Rd side of the finished project, in approximately the location of the current Hardy school.
 - b. Mr. Dowhan showed current schematics based on being able to size a U10 (30yd x 60yd) soccer field on the site.
 - c. Several members suggested looking at the relative cost, both installation and long term operating, of synthetic turf as compared with a grass field. From a youth sports perspective, being able to install a synthetic turf field expands the time it can be used, and also opens it up to further uses (field hockey).

- d. Consensus was that field be lined for lacrosse as well as soccer. If synthetic turf is selected, then we should also include field hockey lines.
- e. [other notes here]

5. Field Applications:

- a. After discussion the group approved the following permits subject to validation that all dates do not conflict with primary user groups' needs.
 - i. List applications along this format:
 - ii. Eunice Groak: Celebratory Baseball/Softball Game honoring Harry Clark, June 26th midday, Reidy Field
 - iii. Wellesley Police: Charity Police/Fire Softball Game, May xx, 5:45 pm or later, Warren Field
 - iv. Terriers Sports: Sports Camps, [June 27 – Aug 25/M-F], [8 am to 3pm], Kelly 1-4
 - v. John Lanza c/o Temple Beth Elohim Warren Field Sunday 10 am – 12 pm, April 3- June 26 (only needs 5 dates , will specify when league schedule comes out).
 - vi. Beantown Bombers Hunnewell JV, Fiske & Upham- Saturdays & Sundays April 9 – May 15
- b. Motion: By Jerry Nigro, to conditionally approve aforementioned applications so that any conflicts with Town and/or usergroups are rectified and Board of Health has been notified for any summer camps operators.
- c. Seconded: Amy Munchak

Vote: All in favor ; Beth Sullivan Woods – Select Board (SB); Linda Chow – School Committee (SC); Jeff Wechsler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Ansley Martin – Soccer (S); Kelly Uller – Field Hockey (FH); Rick Kinney - Wellesley Little League (WLL); Amy Munchak – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Maura Renzella – Football (F)

Abstains: Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC);

- d. Summer field applications tabled until April/May meeting
 - i. Pro Path, 3D New England & James Bede

6. Project updates

- a. WHS Track & Field projects - from Linda Chow
 - i. New bathroom design is going to wetlands protection committee for review. New bathroom structure is smaller, with less impermeable surface than the design approved in 2018.
 - ii. Track & Field Lighting: NRC discussion of Schools proposal and criteria for Land Use change planned for 3/17, then Schools discussion planned for 3/22 and possible future joint meetings on the proposal.
- b. Lacrosse Wall - from Dave Hickey
 - i. After extensive back and forth about the appropriate process, DPW submitted a request to amend the original permit for Sprague to replace the Master Plan with a plan that includes the Lacrosse Wall. ZBA hearing to be scheduled.
- c. Aqueduct bathrooms – from Dave Hickey
 - i. Site contractor has put in the footing for the new bathroom, foundation walls are planned to be poured this week.
 - ii. CXT reported that the structure is in production with mid-late April completion, but delivery schedule is not yet available.
 - iii. Projecting late spring/early summer completion.

iv. Resident Lara Crawford commented on the damage to the Aqueduct path created by the contractor's site preparation machinery and asked when it will be repaired. Dave commented that they are aware of ruts being created and DPW is working with the contractor to mitigate any issues during construction and plans to repair any damage at the end of construction.

d. Field utilization study – from Bea Bezmalinovic

i. Bea commented that we still need to determine the path forward on program demand quantification. NRC will set up a meeting with Recreation, Schools and other interested parties to help move this along to a decision.

7. General Fields discussion

a. Linda commented that Schools is working to identify the storage bins in place at Sprague and help Field Hockey access some storage

b. The group agreed to provide input on the Field Map and naming and we will discuss at the next meeting.

8. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn by Jerry Nigro

Seconded: Bea Bezmalinovic

Vote:

In favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – Select Board (SB); Linda Chow – School Committee (SC); Jeff Wechsler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Ansley Martin – Soccer (S); Kelly Uller – Field Hockey (FH); Rick Kinney - Wellesley Little League (WLL); Amy Munchak – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Maura Renzella – Football (F)

NEXT MEETING: TBA