

**PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE**

**MINUTES**

**August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**7:45 am online zoom meeting**

**Attending:**

Voting Members:

Lisa Collins – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Linda Chow – School Committee (SC), Jeff Wechsler – Board of Public Works (BPW); Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Kelly Uller – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Michael Bessette – Field Hockey (FH); Charlie Baumeister – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Ann Williams – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball (LL); Maura Renzella – Wellesley Youth Football (F); Luke DelVecchio – Adult Softball (AS)

Board/Commission staff and other guests:

Dave Hickey – BPW; Matt Chin – Rec; Angela Snyder – FH; Brandon Schmitt, NRC; John Brown – SC; Christopher McGrath – SC; Wendy Paul - Advisory

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:47 am

2. Citizen Speak:

None

3. Minutes:

No comments.

**Motion:** By Maura Renzella: To approve the Minutes from the June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting as presented

**Seconded:** By Jerry Nigro

Voted in Favor: Lisa Collins – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC; Linda Chow - SC ; Jeff Wechsler – BPW; Jerry Nigro – BL; Kelly Uller - GL; Michael Bessette –FH; Charlie Baumeister - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F; Luke DelVecchio – AS;

4. Field Applications:

a. Youth Sports User Groups Fall Season

i. After putting the permit applications into RecTrak, Matt identified a few conflicts and the programs were able to resolve the issues ahead of the meeting today

ii. Schools commented that they have a few small conflicts

1. Soccer Jamboree on 8/26 10-12:30 @ Sprague 2 and 3

2. FH to start at 5:45

**Motion:** By Charlie Baumeister : To approve the Youth Sports User Group permits as presented and further modified by the groups’ discussion and by the Schools comments in the meeting.

**Seconded:** by Ann Williams

Voted in Favor: Lisa Collins – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC; Linda Chow - SC ; Jeff Wechsler – BPW; Jerry Nigro – BL; Kelly Uller - GL; Michael Bessette –FH; Charlie Baumeister - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F; Luke DelVecchio – AS;

b. Additional Fall Permit requests

- i. Freight Train Lacrosse
  1. Saturdays on Hunnewell Grass, 9 am to 4 pm
  2. Schools reported that there will be a 9/23 JV Girls game at 2pm
  3. Permit will require a standard field rental fee
- ii. St. John's School – afterschool weekdays at Warren Recreation from 3-4pm
  1. Permit will be issued as requested when there isn't a conflict with Recreation Department usage
  2. Permit will require a standard field rental fee
- iii. Cub Scouts – Rocket Launch at Kelly
  1. Sunday 9/10/23 4-6 pm
- iv. Barefoot Soccer - Overnight
  1. Diane Warren Multipurpose Field
  2. 9am August 26<sup>th</sup> to 9 am August 27<sup>th</sup>

**Motion:** By Ann Williams: To approve the permits as presented with the Barefoot Soccer application subject to NRC review if needed in their discretion.

**Seconded:** by Kelly Uller

Voted in Favor: Lisa Collins – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC; Linda Chow - SC ; Jeff Wechsler – BPW; Jerry Nigro – BL; Kelly Uller - GL; Michael Bessette –FH; Charlie Baumeister - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F; Luke DelVecchio – AS;

## 5. Project Updates

- a. Field Utilization Study
  - i. Laurance Stuntz and Lisa Collins reported that Weston & Sampson continues to work towards their final report, which is expected this fall.
- b. High School Track and Field
  - i. Linda Chow reported that the Project has been in front of Wetlands two more times and after seven meetings, the WPC has voted to approve the conditions allowing for the updated bathrooms, lights, sound, and team room. Key conditions included:
    1. Have a baseline habitat evaluation done (complete).
    2. See an evaluation repeated bi-annually three times.
    3. No more than 100 hours of usage, with a process for expanding if appropriate and as voted by the NRC and WPC
    4. Expectation is that Schools will be responsible for tracking usage and for conducting an end of season debrief and for producing a report of usage.
  - ii. DPW are working to finalize plans and design.
  - iii. Should be in a position at the end of the month to finalize the request from the Field Fund for Phase 2a of the project (lights and sound system).
  - iv. Planning to go back to the NRC in the first meeting of September.
- c. Sprague Bathrooms
  - i. Dave Hickey reported that they are still working on plans and with CXT on profiles for the building. The building will go to the Design Review Board as part of the permitting process.

## 6. General Fields discussion

- a. Field Lining – after a question from Kelly Uller about the process for paying for lines, Tim Bania from DPW explained that:
  - i. The Town pays for lining of high school and middle school fields.

- ii. Youth sports user groups pay for lining either directly to DPW or to a private contractor. DPW bills for materials to create a mini “fund” for groups and then uses that fund until it is gone. Based on Tim’s recollection, \$3,000 used by lacrosse lasted about 2 years.
- b. Ann Williams reported to the group that Reidy Field is being taken offline this fall and being resodded, regraded, and redone, with a new scoreboard to be installed as well. The project work is starting on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

7. Adjourn:

**Motion:** To adjourn at 8:37 am by Michael Bessette

**Seconded:** by Jerry Nigro

Voted in Favor: All present.