

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE
Charge to the Lights Subcommittee

At its April 2, 2019 meeting, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) asked the Playing Fields Task Force (PFTF) to investigate the possibility of adding additional and improving existing lighting equipment at playing fields in Town. The PFTF has placed a high priority on this initiative, given its ability to allow for greater active play for Town residents – especially youth – and strengthen our sense of community at evening games and events.

The PFTF will issue a report to the NRC and any other relevant stakeholders, which will include an actionable recommendation for the Commission to consider. As such, the PFTF is appointing a Lights Subcommittee to act as fact-finders and investigators of potential paths forward. In regular consultation with the PFTF, the Subcommittee will draft a holistic report answering:

- On what playing fields do the benefits of installing new lighting or improving existing lighting outweigh the costs?
- What specific fixtures would be recommended? How many and where?
- What ground-level improvements would be necessary to accommodate them?
- What would the financial impact of such improvements be?
- How would funding be secured?
- What permits and approvals would be needed?
- What would the terms of use be? How would these terms be codified and how would they be enforced?

When investigating these questions, the Subcommittee will:

- Consider the effects of proposed lighting on intensity of use and maintenance of fields,
- Consider secondary impacts, such as traffic, concerns for abutters and neighbors, and sound,
- Consider the impact of lights on creating capacity for all user groups, and
- Consider the effect of lights on “dark sky” efforts, utilizing external expertise via consultant Bob Parks.

The PFTF will issue a report to the NRC as soon as one is complete, with a target of fall/winter 2019. In the meantime, the PFTF plans to work with the Subcommittee to publicly vet potential options at its meetings, which the public are welcomed to attend. The PFTF also plans to engage via forums at different times of the day, to ensure that all constituents have the opportunity to be heard. Information and updates will be posted to the PFTF’s website: wellesleyma.gov/356.