

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

September 5, 2014

7:45 am at Warren

Attending:

Ann Williams, WLL	Stephen Murphy, NRC	Ed Lasch, WUSC
Owen Dugan, BPW	Mike Pakstis, DPW	Mike Jennings, Lacrosse
Patti Quigley, School Comm.	Trip Sheehan, Recreation	Dave Hurley, DPW
John Brown, AD	Janet Bowser, NRC	Jan Kaseta, Recreation

Minutes from: June 13, 2014

Motion: To accept the minutes from June 13, 2014, by Patti Quigley with comments from Mike Jennings.

Seconded: By Owen Dugan

Vote: All in favor

Mike Jennings pointed out that a comment was made about Little League paying into the turf account, yet they don't use those fields. Mike wanted to make it clear that when the fields were constructed, an agreement was made that all youth sports would contribute, as everyone benefits in the long run.

Review & Authorization of Athletic Field Needs Analysis Report:

Tripp thanked the group for the feedback that he got from them. He did point out that there were some changes regarding the number of teams playing LL/Softball, from 154 to 190.

Motion: To approve the documents with edits as discussed, by Patti Quigley.

Seconded: By Mike Jennings

Vote: All in favor

John Brown asked that Sprague field 4 be added as HS Baseball and Sprague field 5 as MS Cross Country.

He also asked that the following be added to Hunnewell Multipurpose Field: HS Softball, HS Soccer and MS Soccer.

Also add to Hunnewell Park Fields: HS Field Hockey, MS Field Hockey, Little League

Tripp will add the new Youth Field Hockey, which currently uses Wellesley College, as they would prefer to have town field space. Along the same lines, John Brown said that we couldn't add MS Lacrosse even if we wanted to. He then asked to add, at the HS Stadium, MS Track, HS Lacrosse and MS Football.

North 40 and 900 Worcester Street:

Patti Quigley reported as she is on both committees. She first said that the Fields Analysis report is key to both potential projects.

Both groups are trying to come up with a strategy as to how to approach Town Meeting. For example, should the presentation be given separately or together?

The current thinking is to do a pool and rink at 900 Worcester and fields at North 40. This would take CPC money out of 900 Worcester. Once CPC puts money into purchase it can never be sold. An RFI is going out on Monday regarding 900 Worcester and will be back before Special Town Meeting.

Owen asked if the rink project is being approached as having a vendor who would run the rink(s) while the town receives payment. Patti answered that this is the way the RFI is worded.

Janet Bowser asked if more funds will be needed to complete the due diligence at 900 Worcester. Patti said this was the case.

Regarding North 40, Patti said that negotiations are ongoing and no price has been set. She did say that there is a significant amount of land that is a former dump. Mike Pakstis said that no matter who buys the land, the Town will be responsible for any remediation because we used it as a dump.

Own pointed out that the College has a first responsibility to their Board of Trustees and they will be attempting to get the best price they can on that land.

Patti said that there are some visioning workshops going on in the next couple of weeks to get public feedback.

General Field Discussion:

HS Stadium: Patti said that she thinks she has secured some design funds but is hesitant to use them now and then have the project tabled for an extended period of time. She said that the Fields Analysis goes a long way in setting priorities regarding fields. Tripp said that he got a call from Lisa Wesley from Youth Football who is willing to head a fundraising campaign to raise funds for the stadium renovation. Patti said that right now, it is difficult because so many people are focused on North 40. Mike Jennings said that he finds it difficult to understand why the Town would be so willing to spend money on North 40 and 900 Worcester, and yet expects residents to fundraise money to repair the stadium.

Steve Murphy said that some of the dynamics have changed over the last few years when none of the Town Committees were willing to put the stadium on their 5 year plan. He also felt that it should wait until after we have some idea about the North 40.

Janet Bowser said that she thinks it is a good idea to go forward with the design so that there is something to present and to potentially have a plan to get CPC funds.

HS Track: John Brown said that he thinks the track will be okay for the spring (unless we have a brutal winter). He would like DPW and others to look at it with him.

Fuller Brook: Dave Hickey wanted to report that work has started and will include some closures around fields. He hopes that most work will be done before spring sports. Dave, Mike and John will meet to discuss pathways available to student athletes.

HS Basketball Courts: Dave said that asphalt is done, conduit is in, eight poles to be delivered. Once the light pole bases are in, it will be painted and striped.

HS Football Field: John said they haven't played on the new grass yet, but it looks good. First home game is September 19th.

Next Meeting:

October 10, 21014

Motion:	To adjourn by Steve Murphy
Seconded:	Ed Lasch
Vote:	All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 9 am