

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

January 13th, 2023

7:45 am online zoom meeting

Attending:

Voting Members:

Beth Sullivan Woods – Selectboard (SEL), Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Jeff Weschler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Linda Chow – School Committee (SC), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Kelly Uller – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Michael Bessette – Field Hockey (FH); Maura Renzella – Youth Football (F); Charlie Bauminster – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Rick Kinney – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball

Board/Commission staff and other guests:

Wendy Paul – Advisory Board; John Brown– SC; Chris McGrath – SC; Dave Hickey – BPW; Tim Bania – BPW; Brandon Schmitt – NRC; Angela Snyder – FH; Ansley Martin – S; Chris Howard – S; Matt Chin - Rec

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:48 am
2. Citizen Speak: None
3. Minutes: after some discussion and minor updates to attendee lists

Motion: By Jerry Nigro: To approve the Minutes from the November 18th, 2022 meeting

Seconded: Beth Sullivan Woods

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – Selectboard (SEL), Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Jeff Weschler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Linda Chow – School Committee (SC), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Kelly Uller – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Michael Bessette – Field Hockey (FH); Maura Renzella – Youth Football (F); Charlie Bauminster – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Rick Kinney – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball

4. Field Applications:
 - a. Spring User Group Applications
 - i. Matt Chin reported that we have a couple of applications, and we need the rest so that we can put them into RecTrack and to look at conflicts. In particular, if user groups are interested in using Kelly fields over April vacation, please let Matt know.
 - b. Summer Field Applications
 - i. Matt Chin reported that several groups who ran camps using the fields during the summer pre-COVID have reached out inquiring about availability. Matt asked the user groups to forward their summer plans to him so he can help resolve any potential conflicts.
 - c. Major Event Applications
 - i. As discussed at previous PFTF meetings, we would like to see applications for major events permitted by PFTF at least three months before the event.
 - ii. Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the Wellesley Celebrations weekend is planned for May 20th and 21st this year. Most of Hunnewell Fields complex is closed to games on Saturday and Sunday. The one exception is Reidy Field which should be available on Saturday.

5. Weston & Sampson Field Utilization Study Project update:

- W&S has additional data, but is not yet ready to present the updated field utilization study

6. Project updates

- Sprague Bathrooms:

- Bathrooms at Sprague are moving ahead 15 years after originally planned. Linda Chow reported that the project has gotten a great reception. A building with two individually accessed gender neutral, accessible bathrooms will be placed alongside the path, behind the FMD building and next to the lacrosse wall. Linda is planning a Zoom-based community meeting, hopefully on January 26th, to review the proposal.

Motion: By Beth Sullivan Woods: To support the Sprague Bathrooms project

Seconded: Rick Kinney

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – Selectboard (SEL), Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Jeff Weschler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Linda Chow – School Committee (SC), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Kelly Uller – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Michael Bessette – Field Hockey (FH); Maura Renzella – Youth Football (F); Charlie Bauminster – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Rick Kinney – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball

- Lacrosse wall:

- Ground level and foundation work is going on right now. The wall has been ordered and the hope is to have it available for use in the Spring.

- WHS Track & Field:

- Bathroom/Concession Stand design has gone before the Design Board for review and has been approved.
- School Committee has accepted funds to continue forward with the approval process on the lights and sound
- The School Committee is working with the football community and the Board of Health to ensure that the Concession Stand will meet the Board of Health's requirements and the needs of the Gridiron Club who primarily use the Concessions space.

Motion: By Beth Sullivan Woods: To authorize the Chair of the Playing Fields Task Force to write a letter on behalf of the Task Force and the user groups it represents to the appropriate Town Boards in support of the bathroom projects at Sprague and the High School Track and Field as proposed.

Seconded: Bea Bezmalinovic

- Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – Selectboard (SEL), Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Jeff Weschler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Linda Chow – School Committee (SC), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Kelly Uller – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Michael Bessette – Field Hockey (FH); Maura Renzella – Youth Football (F); Charlie Bauminster – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Rick Kinney – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball

7. General Fields discussion

- Fields at Hardy will be offline in Spring 2023 as the construction for the new Hardy school begins.
- Field Fund update from Jerry Nigro
 - The Fund has raised over \$700,000 and has received pledges for an additional almost \$500,000 so far to support the Wellesley High School Track and Field improvements. The

goal is to raise about \$1,500,000 to be able to support the overall budget of for the project of approximately \$1,200,000 to \$1,300,000 plus contingency funds.

- The Fund has already transferred \$65,000 to the School Committee to support permitting expenses.
- More than 600 unique donors have contributed.
- The Fund is encouraging user groups to reach out to their alumni families as well as current families to ensure that everyone in town is aware of this opportunity to support a significant community resource.

8. Adjourn:

Motion: To adjourn by Kelly Uller

Seconded: Maura Renzella

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – Selectboard (SEL), Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Jeff Weschler – Board of Public Works (BPW), Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Kelly Uller – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Michael Bessette – Field Hockey (FH); Maura Renzella – Youth Football (F); Ansley Martin – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Tripp Sheehan – Citizen at Large

Voted Opposed: None