

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

February 17th, 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); Ansley Martin – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Ann Williams – 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; Lisa Collins – NRC; Ansley Martin – S; Chris Howard – S; Matt Chin - Rec

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:47 am
2. Citizen Speak: None
3. Minutes:

Motion: By Jerry Nigro: To approve the Minutes from the January 13th, 2022 meeting

Seconded: by 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); Ansley Martin – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Ann Williams – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball

4. Field Applications:
 - a. Spring User Group Applications
 - i. The Spring User Group applications were presented, and all participants agreed that conflicts based in the requested permits have been resolved.
 - ii. Laurance Stuntz and Bea Bezmalinovic initiated a discussion about the importance of having good data about actual usage of field space. After discussion, the group concluded that it would make sense to provide actual usage, including number of participants in time slots on particular fields. The group agreed to make providing the data a condition of the permits issued for spring usage.

Motion: By Bea Bezmalinovic: To approve the spring user group permits, as amended by the user groups' resolution of their conflicts, and contingent on providing actual usage data to Matt for recording in RecTrac.

Seconded: by Jerry Nigro

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); Ansley Martin – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Ann Williams – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball

b. Spring Clinic Application

- i. Terriers plans to hold a clinic during April school vacation at the Kelly Fields. Given past history, Bea Bezmalinovic reminded the group that the permits issued by PFTF for use of NRC-owned land are subject to the NRC's amplified sound policies. If Terriers would like to use amplified sound, they need to seek a permit for that from the NRC.

Motion: By Kelly Uller: To approve the Terriers permit with the reminder that the permit does not allow amplified sound.

Seconded: by Ansley Martin

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); Ansley Martin – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Ann Williams – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball

c. Summer Field Applications

- i.

d. Major Event Applications

- i. Ansley Martin presented the plans for the 42nd Wellesley United Memorial Day Tournament. The plans will be cleaned up and posted on the Wellesley United website for neighbors and other interested parties to further review.
- 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.
- iii. Prime Time Lacrosse has not presented an application for field use in Wellesley for the Father's Day Tournament. Laurance Stuntz reminded the audience that we need to have applications for major events at least three months before the event to be able to fully vet and approve any event.

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:
 - Linda Chow reported that she held a neighborhood forum to discuss the plans. Main questions were related to the location of the building and whether there would be lighting around the bathrooms at night. The lights would be on a timer so that they are not on all night.
 - Next step is for Advisory to make a recommendation related to the bathrooms.
- Lacrosse wall:
 - Wall is installed and almost done
- WHS Track & Field:
 - Linda Chow reported that:
 - The project team is talking about dividing the project into phase 2A and 2B. 2A is for Bathroom/Concession Stand and Lighting with 2B targeted for the Team Rooms. Phasing is designed to limit the disturbance to the land.
 - There was lots of discussion about lights at the Design Review Board. Ultimately, the Design Review Board elected not to make a recommendation related to the design.

- The 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.

7. General Fields discussion

- Bea Bezmalinovic informed the Playing Fields Task Force that Town user group coordinators should expect to receive updated data from Weston & Sampson. Please review when forwarded. Additionally, Bea informed the group present that there is a citizen group bringing an article to Town meeting asking for a moratorium on light installations in Town and a study to be done on the effects of outdoor field lights.

8. Adjourn:

Motion: To adjourn by Kelly Uller

Seconded: by 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); Ansley Martin – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Ann Williams – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball;

Voted Opposed: None