

**PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE**

**MINUTES**

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**7:45 am online zoom meeting**

**Attending:**

Voting Members:

Beth Sullivan Woods – Select Board (SB); Linda Chow – School Committee (SC); 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 – Field Hockey (FH); Rick Kinney - Wellesley Little League (WLL); Amy Munchak – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Maura Renzella – Youth Football (F); Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large; Jay Russell – Adult Softball (AS)

Board/Commission staff and other guests:

Matt Chin – RC; John Brown– SC; Kyle Williams – SC; Dave Cohen – BPW; Paul DePhillips – BPW; Tim Bania – BPW; Dave Hickey – BPW; Brandon Schmitt– Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Michael Bessette (FH); Wendy Paul – Advisory Board, Cass Chroust – Weston & Sampson; Amanda Gaal – Weston & Sampson

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:48 am
2. Citizen Speak: none
3. Minutes:

Beth Sullivan Woods pointed out an extraneous word in the minutes that should be removed.

**Motion:** By Jerry Nigro: To approve the Minutes from the 5/13 meeting as amended

**Seconded:** Beth Sullivan Woods

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Linda Chow – SC; Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Jeff Weschler – BPW, Jerry Nigro – BL, Kelly Uller – FH; Rick Kinney – WLL; Amy Munchak – GL; Maura Renzella – YF; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large; Jay Russell – AS

Voted Opposed: None

4. Field Applications

The PFTF reviewed and discussed the following applications

- Boston Leadership Institute, a camp run at Dana Hall, for six days in July (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>) at Hunnewell field to test fly the robotic airplanes they create in their camps.
- WHS Girls Corner Club (soccer) for Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-8 pm in June, July, and the first week of August for the High School Track & Field to play pickup soccer.

**Motion:** By Jerry Nigro: To approve the applications as discussed

**Seconded:** Maura Renzella

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Linda Chow – SC; Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Jeff Weschler – BPW, Jerry Nigro – BL, Kelly Uller – FH; Rick Kinney – WLL; Amy Munchak – GL; Maura Renzella – YF; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large

Voted Opposed: None

## 5. Field Naming

The group reviewed the naming and agreed to a new maps identifying the Hunnewell Fields #1-4 and the Diane Warren Field. Note: the Diane Warren Field includes both softball and a rectangular field, but the group decided not to make that distinction in permitting because those fields would never be permitted at the same time for the separate uses.

Next steps: update the Recreation web site and RecTrac Naming and umpiring systems (Arbiter) adding signage, including updating the web site with preferred parking recommendations.

## 6. Boards at Warren Park

Jerry Nigro introduced a proposal to install boards with netting on top at Warren Park at the corner of Rt 16 and Walnut St on some open playing space inside the fenced area there. The boards are owned by Wellesley Boys Lacrosse and would be loaned to the town for a pilot to run from June to October. The boards are intended to provide a small space for younger (generally under 10) children to learn team sports with small-sided games and walls to contain the ball. During the robust discussion that followed, the following emerged:

- The Recreation Department would plan to use the space as part of their summer Camp Joey programming.
- In the fall, Recreation would use the space as part of their little kid sports programming.
- The DPW stated that they were comfortable that for a pilot program they could maintain the grass and playing surface.
- If the boards attract so many people as to have a detrimental impact on the grass, they can be moved to allow the grass to recover.
- The boards would be installed and removed by Boys Lacrosse and would be configured as a 20 yard by 30 yard rectangle.
- The boards are about hip height and would have netting installed on top to keep balls in the playing area.
- The group agreed that we would recommend this as a pilot program and the area would not be permitted or charged for.

**Motion:** By Jerry Nigro to recommend to the NRC that the Playing Fields Task Force supports a pilot program using these boards from June to October at Warren Park at no cost to the Town and that they would be installed and removed by Boys Lacrosse.

**Seconded:** Maura Renzella

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Linda Chow – SC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Jeff Weschler – BPW, Jerry Nigro – BL, Kelly Uller – FH; Amy Munchak – GL; Maura Renzella – YF; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large; Jay Russell – Adult Softball

Rick Kinney – WLL;

Abstained: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC;

Voted Opposed: None

## 7. Field Optimization Study

Tripp Sheehan introduced Cass Chroust and Amanda Gaal, landscape architects from Weston & Sampson. Cass walked through the project goals and timelines.

8. Project updates

- a. WHS Track & Field: NRC discussed the Track & Field at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and continues to discuss the School Committee proposal.
- b. Lacrosse wall: ZBA verbally approved the addition of the wall to the Sprague site. Next steps are to get a formal approval after the 10 day appeal window.
- c. Aqueduct bathrooms: Completed production, coordinating delivery date, foundation is complete and tested. Targeting end of June.

9. General Fields discussion

- Bea Bezmalinovic asked the teams and user groups to continue to remind team members to clean up fields after use.
- John Brown thanked the DPW, PFTF and user groups for their support during the spring athletic season
- Congratulations to the WHS Sailing Team (first time since 2007) and Girls Track (latest in a long line of championships) for winning State Titles this spring. Good luck to Girls Lacrosse and Boys Tennis who are still playing in their state tournaments.

10. Adjourn:

**Motion:** To adjourn by Jerry Nigro at 9:18 am

**Seconded:** Amy Munchak

Voted in Favor: Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Linda Chow – SC; Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Jeff Weschler – BPW, Jerry Nigro – BL, Kelly Uller – FH; Amy Munchak – GL; Maura Renzella – YF; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large

Voted Opposed: None

**NEXT MEETING:** Tentatively scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:45 am to 9 am.