

PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE

MINUTES

July 15th, 2022

7:45 am online zoom meeting

Attending:

Voting Members:

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 Youth Baseball and Softball (BS); Amy Munchak – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Maura Renzella – Youth Football (F); Ansley Martin – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large;

Board/Commission staff and other guests:

Matt Chin – RC; John Brown– SC; Kyle Williams – SC; Dave Cohen – BPW; Tim Bania – BPW; Dave Hickey – BPW; Michael Bessette (FH); Wendy Paul – Advisory Board; Charlie Baumeister (S), Christopher Howard (S); Ann Williams (BS); Lara Crawford; Josephine Okun

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:47 am
2. Citizen Speak:
 - a. Lara Crawford, 15 Rice St, expressed her interest in the field financing discussion and commented that the North 40 would be an excellent place to put new fields. In response to Lara’s comments, Laurance Stuntz stated that a small group is pulling together financial information and developing recommendations that will be discussed and voted on during the fall in conjunction with information developed through the Field Optimization Study being conducted by Weston & Sampson.
 - b. Josephine Okun, 15 Cottonwood St, commented on importance of transparency around the permits issued by the PFTF and raised some concerns about the Primetime Lacrosse event held on June 18th and 19th.

3. Minutes:

A few minor amendments were made to the minutes.

Motion: By **Jerry Nigro**: To approve the Minutes from the 6/10 meeting as amended

Seconded: **Ansley Martin**

Voted in Favor: 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; Ansley Martin – S; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large;

Voted Opposed: None

4. Field Applications

The PFTF reviewed and discussed the following applications

- Beantown Bombers, for tryouts run at the JV Baseball Diamond (on Hunnewell Field) on August 6th and at Kelly Field on August 13 & 14, all from 8-10 am.
- Game Time Training (Isaiah Davis), for a Basketball clinic run on Mondays July 25th – August 15th from 6-8 pm at the Hunnewell courts and on Thursdays August 18th to September 15th from 5:30-6:45 pm at the Schofield court.

Motion: By **Ansley Martin**: To approve the applications as discussed with the provision that for Game Time Training a final fee will be determined based on a recommendation from Matt Chin and discussed at the next Playing Fields Task Force meeting since our current regulations do not cover the permitting and use of the Basketball courts.

Seconded: **Kelly Uller**

Voted in Favor: Linda Chow – SC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Jeff Weschler – BPW, Jerry Nigro – BL, Kelly Uller – FH; Rick Kinney – WLL; Amy Munchak – GL; Maura Renzella – YF; Ansley Martin – S; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large;

Abstained: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC;

Voted Opposed: None

The PFTF reviewed and discussed an application from Terriers to run a Flag Football program at the Diane Warren field on Saturdays September 17th to October 29th from 4-5 pm and on Sundays September 18th to November 6th from 6-8 pm. This application was tabled to first ensure that there are no conflicts with Softball pitching clinics and to make a recommendation about the correct fee to be assessed for the programming.

Finally, the PFTF reviewed and discussed the applications from the Wellesley youth sports leagues in detail. In general, the teams were able to discuss and find times for the permit requests that avoided conflicts. Final details are being ironed out and will be submitted to Matt Chin in the coming weeks for entry into the RecTrac management system. Laurance Stuntz thanked the teams for working together so smoothly to develop a plan of usage, which is difficult given the extremely high demand for field use by Wellesley youth sports, schools, and general public use.

Motion: By **Jerry Nigro**: To approve the issuance of permits to the youth sports teams as generally submitted, with the provision that Matt will highlight and work with the leagues to resolve any conflicts that arise as the requests are entered into RecTrac.

Seconded: By **Maura Renzella**

Voted in Favor: 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; Ansley Martin – S; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large;

a. Major Field Applications

The group discussed developing a special application for major events (generally an event with more than 500 expected participants and spectators). We would plan to develop the application this fall and start to use it for the major spring sporting events that occur in 2023, including the Wellesley United Memorial Day Tournament and potentially the Primetime Lacrosse event on Father's Day. The group brainstormed important elements of such an application including a traffic and trash management plan, coordination with the high school, a designated day-of-event communications contact, publicity plan for local neighbors and vendors, accountability for any event-related damage or issues, and a requirement for the event manager to present the plan to the PFTF at least 3 months before the event.

5. Project updates

- a. WHS Track & Field: NRC approved the School Committee's proposal to install lights for limited high school athletics use and limited additional potential use as approved by the NRC. Fundraising to support the installation of lights, addition of team rooms, and upgrade of the sound system is the next step.
- b. Lacrosse wall: The appeal period for the update to the Sprague Master Plan approved by the ZBA has expired with no appeals. DPW is requesting updated quotes for installation of the wall and hopes to have it installed this summer or fall.
- c. Aqueduct bathrooms: The Aqueduct bathroom has been installed and DPW is coordinating final hookups and site preparation with a goal of opening the bathroom by the end of July. Depending on weather conditions and timing of the site availability, DPW will assess whether to use seed or sod to bring grass back to the site so that the field hockey field will be usable before the start of the fall season. The bathroom will have an automatic locking and unlocking system with key and touchpad code overrides to allow emergency access. Final schedule will be determined, but the expectation is that the bathroom will be available from early morning (6 am) until last usage (9 or 9:30pm) for use by the public.
- d. Lights retrofit at the Warren Field and Tennis Courts. NRC is moving forward with this project that was funded by the CPC and approved by Town Meeting in 2022. They are getting new quotes and coordinating installation plans with a hope of installing this year, but dates are not yet finalized.

6. General Fields discussion

- None

7. Adjourn:

Motion: To adjourn by Kelly Uller at 9:42 am

Seconded: Jerry Nigro

Voted in Favor: 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; Charlie Baumeister - S; Tripp Sheehan – Citizen At Large;

Voted Opposed: None

NEXT MEETING: Tentatively scheduled for August 12th, 7:45 am to 9 am.



WARREN BUILDING
90 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 02481

DIRECTOR
MATTHEW G. CHIN

TELEPHONE: 781-235-2370
FAX: 781- 237 -3558

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BRANDON G. FITTS

FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Dave Rosenblatt Organization: Beantown Bombers Baseball

Mailing Address: 36 Cottage St, Natick, MA 01760

Email: beantownbombersbaseball@gmail.com Daytime Phone # 781-400-4334

Field Requested: Upham 2, WHS JV batting cage & infield, Ouellet

For what activity/sport: Baseball

DATE (S) – List all

Upham 2 - 4 - 5:30pm on 9/14, 9/22, 10/5

WHS JV: 4-5pm on 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30

WHS Varsity: 5-6:30pm on 9/12, 9/19, 10/3

Day (s): _____ Time: Start _____ Finish _____

Rain Date (if needed): None

Approximate # of people: 12-15 # of Wellesley Residents: 10-12

To Request a field permit:

- **Complete this form and submit to: Recreation Director Matt Chin (Address above)**
- **For Questions contact Matt Chin at 7881-235-2370 or mchin@wellesleyma.gov**
- Requests to use Warren, Brown, Perrin, Phillips, Ouellette & Hunnewell Park (Town Hall Green) will be forwarded to the Natural Resources (NRC) for approval. *
- Requests to use school fields will be presented to the Playing Fields Task Force and the School Athletic Director for approval. *
- * These committees may only meet once a month. Do not expect a quick turnaround for permit approval.
- Requests for fields made by vendors operating summer camps will not be approved until that vendor has satisfied state and local Board of Health requirements.
- SEE BELOW FOR FEES AND POLICIES

WELLESLEY FIELD PERMIT REQUEST INFORMATION

Keep this for your records.

General Policies:

- No alcohol, no illegal drugs, no smoking and/or vaping.
- Public property may not be used to conduct a private business, unless certain requirements are met. The Recreation Director can aid you with this process. See “Public Facility Use for Private Gain Policy” at www.wellesleyma.gov click Government, click Recreation, click Facility & Fields, click Playing Fields Task Force & Field Applications, click Playing Fields Task Force Documents
- Users are responsible for any damage.
- Users are responsible for checking the Town website for field conditions/closures. Fields will be posted when closed during the spring, summer and fall seasons. Assume that fields are closed during the winter.
- If selling food, you must receive authorization from the Board of Health.
- In general, Wellesley fields do not have sanitary facilities.
- **WELLESLEY GREEN INITIATIVE:** The Playing Fields Task Force is partnering with Wellesley Green Schools on an important initiative to reduce waste on town fields. We require you to tell coaches, teams, family & friends, to help in the following ways: 1) Please ask players & visiting teams to BRING REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES TO ALL GAMES & PRACTICES; 2) Please consider eliminating the extra drinks & snacks that are often brought to practices & games (studies show that this has a positive health benefit as well); 3) Consider naming a team captain to oversee garbage collection & recycling or encourage players to clean up after themselves; and 4) Please remind players and visiting teams that the Town of Wellesley is committed to sustainable principles and has installed working water fountains & recycling bins at almost all Town fields.

Priority of Use:

- 1) Town-Wide Special Events
- 2) School Use/School Coaches’ Clinics
- 3) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues
- 4) Wellesley Recreation Department Programs
- 5) Wellesley Resident Adult Groups
- 6) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use
- 7) Charitable Groups
- 8) Non-Resident Groups / Non-Recreation Department Camps and Clinics

Fees, as approved in the Playing Fields Policy:

- 1) Town-wide Special Events: No fee,
- 2) School Use: No fee,
- 3) School Coach(es) Clinics: \$15 per participant,
- 4) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues: \$30 per participant per season (\$15 to Turf Field Fund),
- 5) Wellesley Resident Youth League Clinics: \$15 per participant,
- 6) Wellesley Recreation Department Programs: No fee,
- 7) Organized Use of the High School Track: \$15 per participant per season; if not a seasonal rental: \$150,
- 8) Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell) for Adult Softball: \$40 per participant per season (\$25 to Recreation lighting account)
- 9) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use: \$50 for a grass field, including the Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell), but \$75 if using lights (incremental \$25 to Recreation lighting account); \$75 for a turf field,
- 10) Charitable Groups: No fee,
- 11) Non-Resident (Adults and Youth): Grass field and Sprague turf field: \$150; High School turf field: \$375 (fee is for field use only; utilization of scoreboard and sound system is not allowed), and
- 12) Non-Recreation Department Camps: \$35 per participant on a grass field; \$50 per participant on a turf field. (Camps catering to participants over the age of twelve years shall, whenever available, be assigned to turf fields).
- 13) All track and field rentals that are not charged per participant are figured in increments of 1.5 hours. Fees collected shall be deposited into the DPW Field Use Fund, unless otherwise noted or a rental of a turf field; revenue from turf field rentals shall be deposited into the Turf Field Fund.

General Field Use Rules

Hours of Operation:

Fields may be used until dusk with the exception of the lighted Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell). Lights may remain on until 9:30 pm, except for Reidy Field, where lights may remain on until 9:45 pm. No play before 8:00 am on Sunday at any field that abuts homeowners.

Prohibited Activities:

Any prohibited activities posted on signage at the High School track or any fields, consumption/possession of drugs or alcoholic beverages; use of fields beyond permitted dates or times; use of grass fields during wet field conditions or before they are declared available for use; and any activity that may cause field damage. Users must show good judgment when using fields and must stop play if the field shows damage during activity. Any group who causes damage to any field will be responsible for repair costs.

Field Closures:

<http://www.wellesleyma.gov/1049/Playing-Fields-OpenClosed-Status> or call (781) 235-2370 for the latest field closures. If a field is closed, no use is permitted at all. The field status webpage and the hotline are for informational purposes only; field signage and/or direct communication from the Wellesley DPW Park and Tree Division (DPW) take precedence. Whenever possible, DPW will email user groups and post signs when fields are closed.

Please note that grass fields can be closed even when the weather appears good at the time because of standing water, previous damage or other field condition issues. The DPW, in consultation with the PFTF, will recommend when fields should be closed in order to rest them to prevent significant damage from overuse or for maintenance reasons.

Weather:

Since lightning can strike up to 10 miles from a storm, users should seek safe shelter as soon as they hear thunder or see lightning. They should wait for 30 minutes without hearing thunder or seeing lightning before returning to the field.

Maintenance of Baseball/Softball Infields:

Baseball/softball players and coaches are expected to groom the infields after each game and practice. Equipment for grooming is supplied and coaches are responsible for knowing the storage box combinations.

Litter, Trash and Recycling:

All users are responsible for picking up any trash or litter on the field at the completion of their practice or game session regardless of whether this trash was there when they first got on the field or not. Pick up trash when you leave the field, even if it is not yours. Consider naming team captains at each practice or game to oversee litter collection and recycling.

Users are expected to use trash and recycling receptacles located on or near the fields or to take their waste home for disposal. If the group expects to generate excess trash, they must provide a means for removing trash themselves. Bring a trash bag with you to games and practices. Please pick up and recycle all plastic bottles. Inform coaches, players, players' families, and attendees at games and practices that there are water fountains at the majority of the active playing fields and that participants are strongly encouraged to utilize reusable and refillable water bottles for all practices and games.

The last group to use a field for the day is responsible for leaving a clean, litter free field. If you consistently find trash when you arrive at the field please contact the Recreation Director at (781) 235-2370, who will attempt to identify the users who might be leaving the field in such condition.

Users are urged to support the preservation and sustainability of Wellesley's playing fields through responsible use of the fields and respect for those who neighbor the fields. It is the responsibility of all coaches, managers, referees and parents to lead by example by educating our children on the proper use of field space and emphasizing the importance of caring for our community assets and maintaining a clean environment.

Concerns related to the maintenance/condition of the High School track or any field should be addressed to the Assistant Superintendent/Deputy Tree Warden of the Park Division at dpw@wellesleyma.gov.



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DIRECTOR
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TELEPHONE: 781-235-2370
FAX: 781-237-3558

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BRANDON G. FITTS

FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Alexis Waggoner Organization: Wellesley Boys Lacrosse

Mailing Address: 50 Pinsonnault N. Attleboro, MA

Email: Wags123456@yahoo.com Daytime Phone # 978-590-9341

Field Requested: Grass Field 142

For what activity/sport: Lacrosse

DATE (S) - List all

Sept: 10th, 17th, 24th

Oct: 1st, 5th, 22nd

Day (s): Saturday Time: Start 8am Finish 9:30am

Rain Date (if needed): _____

Approximate # of people: 50 # of Wellesley Residents: 1000/00

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BRANDON G. FITTS

FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Pete Blumenthal Organization: Cub Scout Pack 185

Mailing Address: 2 Beechwood Rd, Wellesley, MA 02482

Email: pack185wellesley@gmail.com Daytime Phone # 508-904-6157

Field Requested: Kelly Field #1-4

For what activity/sport: Cub Scout Rocket Launch Event open to the community for recruiting

DATE (S) – List all

September 11, 2022 4-6pm

Day (s): Sunday, 9-11-22 Time: Start 4pm Finish 6pm

Rain Date (if needed): 9-18-22

Approximate # of people: 75 # of Wellesley Residents: 75

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TELEPHONE: 781-235-2370
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BRANDON G. FITTS

FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Francis Yerardi Organization: Gorilla Lax

Mailing Address: 382 Watertown St Newton, MA 02458

Email: info@gorillalax.com / Support@gorillalax.com Daytime Phone # 617-834-8886

Field Requested: Hunnewell Field

For what activity/sport: Lacrosse Practice

DATE (S) – List all

9/10 , 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29

Day (s): Saturday's Time: Start 9:30 AM Finish 3:30 PM

Rain Date (if needed): _____

Approximate # of people: 30 # of Wellesley Residents: 16

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- 8) Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell) for Adult Softball: \$40 per participant per season (\$25 to Recreation lighting account)
- 9) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use: \$50 for a grass field, including the Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell), but \$75 if using lights (incremental \$25 to Recreation lighting account); \$75 for a turf field,
- 10) Charitable Groups: No fee,
- 11) Non-Resident (Adults and Youth): Grass field and Sprague turf field: \$150; High School turf field: \$375 (fee is for field use only; utilization of scoreboard and sound system is not allowed), and
- 12) Non-Recreation Department Camps: \$35 per participant on a grass field; \$50 per participant on a turf field. (Camps catering to participants over the age of twelve years shall, whenever available, be assigned to turf fields).
- 13) All track and field rentals that are not charged per participant are figured in increments of 1.5 hours. Fees collected shall be deposited into the DPW Field Use Fund, unless otherwise noted or a rental of a turf field; revenue from turf field rentals shall be deposited into the Turf Field Fund.

General Field Use Rules

Hours of Operation:

Fields may be used until dusk with the exception of the lighted Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell). Lights may remain on until 9:30 pm, except for Reidy Field, where lights may remain on until 9:45 pm. No play before 8:00 am on Sunday at any field that abuts homeowners.

Prohibited Activities:

Any prohibited activities posted on signage at the High School track or any fields, consumption/possession of drugs or alcoholic beverages; use of fields beyond permitted dates or times; use of grass fields during wet field conditions or before they are declared available for use; and any activity that may cause field damage. Users must show good judgment when using fields and must stop play if the field shows damage during activity. Any group who causes damage to any field will be responsible for repair costs.

Field Closures:

<http://www.wellesleyma.gov/1049/Playing-Fields-OpenClosed-Status> or call (781) 235-2370 for the latest field closures. If a field is closed, no use is permitted at all. The field status webpage and the hotline are for informational purposes only; field signage and/or direct communication from the Wellesley DPW Park and Tree Division (DPW) take precedence. Whenever possible, DPW will email user groups and post signs when fields are closed.

Please note that grass fields can be closed even when the weather appears good at the time because of standing water, previous damage or other field condition issues. The DPW, in consultation with the PFTF, will recommend when fields should be closed in order to rest them to prevent significant damage from overuse or for maintenance reasons.

Weather:

Since lightning can strike up to 10 miles from a storm, users should seek safe shelter as soon as they hear thunder or see lightning. They should wait for 30 minutes without hearing thunder or seeing lightning before returning to the field.

Maintenance of Baseball/Softball Infields:

Baseball/softball players and coaches are expected to groom the infields after each game and practice. Equipment for grooming is supplied and coaches are responsible for knowing the storage box combinations.

Litter, Trash and Recycling:

All users are responsible for picking up any trash or litter on the field at the completion of their practice or game session regardless of whether this trash was there when they first got on the field or not. Pick up trash when you leave the field, even if it is not yours. Consider naming team captains at each practice or game to oversee litter collection and recycling.

Users are expected to use trash and recycling receptacles located on or near the fields or to take their waste home for disposal. If the group expects to generate excess trash, they must provide a means for removing trash themselves. Bring a trash bag with you to games and practices. Please pick up and recycle all plastic bottles. Inform coaches, players, players' families, and attendees at games and practices that there are water fountains at the majority of the active playing fields and that participants are strongly encouraged to utilize reusable and refillable water bottles for all practices and games.

The last group to use a field for the day is responsible for leaving a clean, litter free field. If you consistently find trash when you arrive at the field please contact the Recreation Director at (781) 235-2370, who will attempt to identify the users who might be leaving the field in such condition.

Users are urged to support the preservation and sustainability of Wellesley's playing fields through responsible use of the fields and respect for those who neighbor the fields. It is the responsibility of all coaches, managers, referees and parents to lead by example by educating our children on the proper use of field space and emphasizing the importance of caring for our community assets and maintaining a clean environment.

Concerns related to the maintenance/condition of the High School track or any field should be addressed to the Assistant Superintendent/Deputy Tree Warden of the Park Division at dpw@wellesleyma.gov.