

Town of Stonington Athletic Field Oversight Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held April 1, 2013 @ 4:30 pm at Stonington HS. In attendance were: J. Bragaw, M. Crowley, L. DiCesare, K. Donovan, S. Grimes, E. Haberek, B. Morrone, A. Morrison, V. Riley, P. Sartor, S. Steadman, B. Sternberg, and L. Sullivan. Paul DeCastro was also present. Absent: Bill King and J. Mendonca.

The items discussed were as follows:

1. Status Update on Athletic Field Project

- A. Lay down area status: The work is almost complete; trees have been cut down/removed, with some boulders remaining around the perimeter.
- B. Bid Results: Joe Bragaw explained that required experience criteria narrowed the field of eligible bidders but he was very pleased with the bids submitted. He provided a spreadsheet that presented the bid opening results and explained the outcome. The apparent low bidder is RAD Sports with a total base bid of \$968,900.00. Milone & MacBroom has worked with RAD on 5 projects and recommend them highly. RAD has a reputation of attention to detail and are not known for submitting change orders; they value their reputation of getting in and getting the project done on time and on budget. It was noted the least expensive type of turf to be selected was Shaw Powerblade but it is not as durable for football.

2. Public Comment – None

3. Discuss and Vote on the following items:

- A. Type of Turf: E. Haberek, S. Grimes, and M. Crowley made a field trip on Thursday, March 28th, to see the newly installed field at Cheshire High School. The field is the most recent project by RAD Sports and used Shaw Legion turf with alternating color panels. All reported the field was excellent both in appearance and construction and found it to be very comfortable to walk on. All were favorably impressed and spoke with a coach who told them the field is excellent to play on with very little in-fill rubber fly up. There was further discussion about other fields visited and the types of turf used as well as environmental concerns.

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B. Alternate color panels or not: After discussion of the fields that were visited, a majority of the committee liked the appearance of alternating color panels (two shades of green).

Sandy Grimes made a motion which was seconded by Alisa Morrison and approved by the remaining 3 voting committee members to recommend awarding the bid to RAD Sports, to use Shaw Legion turf with alternating panels, and to include the structural spray.

Joe Bragaw stated the award will be placed on the agenda for approval by the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting, 4/10. He anticipates work will begin on or about May 1 and he also stated the agreement will contain language that the field is to be substantially complete by 8/1/2013 with damages paid to the Town if not completed by 8/15/2013.

4. Discuss Overview of Grass Field Project – Larry Sullivan stated he is currently putting together information for the lower grass field and is preparing the time line. He expects application for a permit to go before the Inland Wetlands Commission for approval at their May meeting. There will be a lot of grading involved in the field work and he recommends that all 3 fields be done at one time.

Ken Donovan and Van Riley stated that the fields will receive spring maintenance and that they would address any and all existing safety issues that would be a danger to players. However, there will be no over seeding nor more extensive maintenance to minimize wasting funds for fields that will be cut up in the fall. Maintenance of the fields will be turned over to the Highway Department on July 1 as new seasonal help comes on board.

Ed Haberek stressed the need to ensure support be given to Bryan Morrone and Joe Mendoza for scheduling of field use. Van Riley explained how the process of scheduling field usage has been changed and reported he felt it was being handled in a fair and equitable manner.

5. Identify Action Items as Necessary: None discussed other than field usage scheduling. Bryan Morrone reported that the fall schedule will be completed in a week.
6. Set upcoming Oversight Committee meeting dates: Joe Bragaw suggested that the next committee meeting take place approximately mid-May. Further information will be provided as the work progresses.