

# **Town of Stonington Athletic Field Oversight Committee Meeting**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**The meeting was held August 27 2013 @ 2:30 pm at Stonington Town Hall. In attendance were: J. Bragaw, M. Crowley, L. DiCesare, S. Grimes, E. Haberek, J. Mendonca, A. Morrison, B. Morrone, P. Sartor, S. Steadman, and V. Riley. Absent: K. Donovan, B. King, B. Sternberg, and L. Sullivan**

**The items discussed were as follows:**

**1. Status Update on Athletic Field Project**

J. Bragaw reported the walk through for final punch list items will take place on Thursday August 29th. The flag pole and fencing was being installed and the ball netting is in place. The football coach has some concerns about the ball netting being up during football season. Discussion of the issue determined that the BOE can remove the poles and netting in the fall and put them up in the spring for lacrosse. Storage of the poles and nettings is required. The player area lacrosse markings on the visitor's side will need to be sprayed painted on the turf if needed. J. Bragaw stated there will be training on August 28, 2013 to go over grooming and proper maintenance of the field.

J. Bragaw stated that the contract with Shaw requires that they perform an annual G-Max test and inspection of the field at no cost to the Town.

B. Morrone will get pricing for additional matting for track protection in the bench areas and get the information to J. Bragaw.

Public Works will make up the signs ("No Cleats, No Dogs, etc.") to be posted at the main entrances to the new field. A problem with dogs defecating on the field was reported by P. Sartor. Further discussion of this problem led to the decision that the gate to the field will need to be locked up at night. V. Riley said he will take care of issuing a policy regarding lock up of the field.

P. Sartor commented on 1 ½ inch separation at the NE corner of the track. J. Bragaw asked S. Steadman to check on it.

2. Discuss the latest plans for the lower fields.

J. Bragaw stated that all 3 lower fields will be roto-tilled and the sod is expected to be installed on or about October 1<sup>st</sup> on the softball field. L. DiCesare explained that the purchased loam and the material that was removed from the football field will be intermixed before it is brought to the field areas. We are not planning on using any of the loam that will be removed from the lower fields, but if we do consider this, the material will need to be screened and checked for debris. It is the intent to have all three lower fields ready for use by the teams by Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>. The fencing and other miscellaneous items might have to be completed after Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

3. Discuss security issues on fields (Van).

V. Riley explained his new policy regarding the facilities and the fields. His new standards require the facilities and grounds to be in pristine (or near pristine) condition and the grounds to appear park-like. The custodians will now report directly to the school principals and receive direction accordingly. He stated the custodians and maintenance crews did not previously have the equipment needed to do the job properly and he is in the process of rectifying the situation as budget allows. He has created a new facilities monitor position (the person has been hired and will be starting soon) to tour the area and will report on the condition of both the buildings and the grounds every morning. He intends to add language to the contracts with those who use the fields/buildings that if any work is needed after usage they will be required to pay the cost for such work.

4. Discuss ribbon cutting for turf field.

There was much discussion about the ceremony and it was decided there will be two (2) ceremonies – a ribbon cutting to open the new field and a rededication ceremony of Palmer Field. The ribbon cutting will take place on Sept. 11 at 6 pm. A. Morrison is coordinating this ceremony and she asked that people email her their lists of recommendations of who should be invited and to include the contact information as well. The rededication ceremony will take place on October 11<sup>th</sup> before the first varsity home football game. V. Riley will coordinate this ceremony and B. Morrone, M. Crowley, and S. Grimes will assist. The Palmer family representative will be asked to speak at this event.

5. Status of storage

J. Bragaw explained that one – 8' wide x 40' long steel container has been delivered to the site for immediate needs. If a second container is needed, the BOE should let Joe know. As for a permanent storage facility, we can start discussing this more in late September/early October as the field work starts winding down and we know how much contingency will be left in the project. At that time, we can start looking into the space needs of Public Works, BOE Maintenance and the BOE Athletic Dept to properly size a new storage facility.

6. Status of Mystic Middle School fencing project.

The poles are currently being installed along with the fabric and the gates are expected to be installed tomorrow. The sprinklers are in. The fence is black vinyl coated fabric and poles. The fencing should be done by August 29<sup>th</sup>. The field will then be lined for soccer shortly after that.

7. Plans for other field bond work:

- a. Perimeter drainage and fencing on all purpose field – Spring 2014
- b. Fencing & sprinklers for practice field – after the football team is done using the field. It is hoped to deep aerate, top dress and over seed this field this fall if time allows.
- c. Basketball court repair – 2014.
- d. Need for more parking – J. Bragaw will look into possibilities for funding.

Action Items:

- B. Morrone will price out additional track protection mats and get the information to J. Bragaw.
- J. Bragaw will prepare a detailed breakdown of all costs to date associated with the field bond for discussion at the next meeting.
- B. King to look into the issue of the scoreboard sitting on questionable material. The structural engineer needs to redesign the footing based on the known soil conditions under the footing. Right now, the lower field work does not include the installation of the new scoreboard.
- V. Riley will take the lead on determining the proper fee structure for use of the new Athletic Field.

The meeting concluded at 3:45 pm.