

**Wayland Recreation Department
Draft Minutes
March 18, 2016
Recreation Meeting**

Present: Brud Wright, Frank Krasin, Asa Foster, Heidi Seaborg, Jessica Brodie
Guests:

Meeting called to order at 10:06 am

Brud called the meeting to Order.

Public Comment:

- No one present to comment

Capital Projects

Outstanding Capital Project progress & expected progress:

- **Dudley Woods**
 - Jess to meet with Beth on Monday to confirm contracts
- **Oxbow Meadows**
 - Meeting with Beth on Monday for contract info
- **Capital Maintenance Projects**
 - MOU progress – Almost ready to present
 - Commission is frustrated with how long this process has been taking
 - Jess explained the comments that have been coming up related to maintenance
 - Question related to the condition of benches and what new benches should be purchased vs. just replacing the wood and not purchasing a new bench
 - Cochituate ball field benches of concern right now, and Frank would like to replace just the wood instead of the whole structure

Spring 2016 Field Use:

- **Field Opening & Closing dates**
 - Weather dependent
- **Field Scheduling Hierarchies**
 - Jess explained a situation between Nakona Baseball and New England Blazers about field request times that conflicted with each other for the Spring
 - In the future, the commission needs to look more into pricing and priorities/compromises between groups
- **Field resting / maintenance plans**
 - Asa feels that before we have a real resting plan, we may need new facilities, or decide if we are going to take a field offline or “run the fields into the ground” with overuse
 - If we are not going to rest fields and rehab a field, then what is the plan for repairing the condition of them?
 - If it is determined dangerous to play on these fields, then the Town’s responsibility is to close them
 - Brud explained that sometimes the “danger” aspect of condition of fields/playgrounds/etc. is thrown out there and then everyone has to get involved when sometimes it may need repairs but may not technically be “un-safe”
 - Brud feels if anyone in a professional position declares a field “unsafe” then agrees a field should be closed
 - Brud talked about the Field Advisory group and how no one on that group has a hidden agenda, and are all interested in knowing exactly what the commission wants them to accomplish. The group needs to provide “buy in” for future field resting plans in regards to scheduling and condition of the field. They would help support the efforts moving forward so that they could support the vote

- Heidi agrees it's not worth resting a field at this point until a long term plan is in place or plans to re-hab that field are identified.
- Asa discussed the possibilities of a Turf field at the middle school, and how valuable that would be to rest other natural fields in the future. A formal resting plan could be in place after that time.
- Jess mentioned the TB field renovations plans for the fall and any concerns that field users may have with closing a field in the Fall and Spring Season. Brud mentioned that youth soccer was on board with this and would make it work. Some of the adult groups may have scheduling conflicts, but we would have to address that when it comes if needed
- **Carmine Gentile stopped by quickly to provide an update on the House Bill and how it is currently in its third reading before being released to the Senate**
- **Special Events that need approval**
 - Pam's Run – Sunday, October 16th – Brud, motion to approve Pam's run use of the field at Claypit. Asa, 2nd. All in favor. 4-0-0

Spring Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

- **Discuss Recreation Articles, presenting articles, and potential presentation/power points & related documents**
- **Revolving Fund related articles**
 - Brief discussion about the timing of the Special Legislation passing before or after town meeting and how that may affect any articles being pulled or not (53D, Stabilization Fund, or amending the 53E ½ article to include field user fees)
 - The commission discussed the 53D Beach article and if they would pull the article or not prior to Town Meeting if they had the option. Asa expressed concerns about the timing of how the cap would be voted to get changed and the overall FY17 budget that would be approved at Town Meeting.
 - Brud feels that if Legislation passes before Town meeting then maybe we could create an amendment that addresses the 1% cap as well as the amendments to "include" beach and field revenue and expenses in the 53E ½.
 - Timing of when Legislation may pass will be key in determining the amendments and steps for Town Meeting.
 - If legislation doesn't pass before town meeting, then the only plan would be to amending the 53E ½ article to "including" field user fees.
 - **Brud summarized articles for Town Meeting:**
 - Jess had a handout to outline all of the articles Recreation is involved with
 - Heidi to present 53D article
 - Asa to present Stabilization Fund
 - Brud to amend article 7, 53E ½ excluding fields
 - Anna to present land transfer article
 - Anna or Brud to present Article 22
 - **Jess asked about power point presentations for Town Meeting and what visuals they want to be presented at town meeting**
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 - Brud asked if the commission was in favor of amending the article that excludes field user fees from being collected as Local Receipts.
 - Heidi expressed her concerns with how things would play out if we won the amendment and then approached the BOS to raise our spending cap after town meeting, and she just wants to avoid a show down on town meeting floor and work with everyone to come to a resolution
 - Asa understood Heidi's comments, but still feels this is an issue about other boards trying to control Recreation fees
 - Heidi feels that if we keep having small little "wins" in a contentious way, then it opens the Rec Commission up to contentions decisions to other boards in the future over other various things
 - Heidi had to leave, but Brud asked the rest of the commission if they were open to a compromise or agreement about mending the article the specified collecting field user fees as local receipts

- Asa discussed how a lot of towns people don't understand the budgeting process of programs and a Revolving Fund
- Frank asked how we can better explain how our budget works and solve this issue.
- Everyone agrees that sending budgets to the BOS and Fin. Comm. Prior to Town meeting provides each of those boards to view the commissions plans and thoughts so that they have seen budgets prior to Town meeting
- Brud would like the language from the 2008 Special Act and item "c" to possibly be a visual when he presents the amendment
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- **Library/Rec Land Transfer Article**

- Anne Heller was present to provide comments from the Library related to this article.
- Brud expressed some concerns about the article that was submitted to the paper and how it almost sounded in the article like it was a Library decision of how the land was going to be used in the future, when in reality the town will be deciding. Brud just wanted to make sure the wording was clarified during the presentation at Town Meeting.
- Brud feels that someone from Recreation should also speak to that article related to plans for the Turf field during the presentation of the article
- Anne suggested that Brud reach out to Aida regarding the presentation of the article and possibly sharing some of the time to present Recreation's view of transferring the land for potential field purposes.
- Brud to follow up with Library to split the time
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Dudley Pond Beach Area

- **Boat Graveyard – building a rack and selling permits**

- Jess to further inquire about DPW help construct boat racks, and possibly charge the same or less for boat permits in the future
- If DPW doesn't want to build it, then possibly another

Town Beach 2016

- **Snack Bar – thoughts on contracting our services**

- Jess expressed concerns about lack of staff for this coming season and wanted to hear the commissions thoughts on contracting out Snack Bar services for the beach
- The commission is in favor of this idea and even thinks this may be a better alternative

- **Dog rules – allowed / not allowed, enforcement, concerns**

- Commission about alternatives to allow / not allowing dogs on the beach and what the rules should be
- Brud suggested allowing dogs in the boat launch area year round, but not allowed (year round) on the sand area, and other beach amenities such as courts, playground, deck, picnic grove, etc.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting, If Any.

- Frank feels we need more security for the TB Gym because the doors are getting propped open by users that want air while playing sports and then forgetting to close them when they leave. Frank would like more signage on the doors to not open them on the side door as well.
- Groups have also been parking on the grass near the gym and they should not be because of fire/police access. Suggested a memo go out to users reminding them of
- Poetry Garden at Town beach?
 - Frank is against the garden and the location because it is technically DCR land, DPW will not ever maintain it, and if one group is given permission then other groups should be able to do that same area
 - Jess suggested designating an area where groups can maintain a garden.
- Lowry Land disposition
 - Frank is opposed to selling this parcel of land because of how congested the area is
 - Asa and Brud felt more building shouldn't occur on it, but if an abutter was inquiring for potential septic use, etc. then that would be ok.

- Paying for sailing / swim instructor certifications?
 - Jess asked the commission's thoughts on paying for certifications for lifeguards / or sailing instructors.
 - Brud feels it should be a reimbursement factor to be paid back at the end of the season, rather than paying for it all up front. Brud suggested keeping it simple of offering \$250 a year toward certification at the end of the season, or that amount as a bonus if already certified when hired

The Field Advisory Group will meet again on Monday, March 28th, 2016.

Public Comment:

- None

Next Meeting: Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:00pm

Adjourn – Asa motion to adjourn, Frank 2nd. All in favor 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.