

**Wayland Recreation Commission
Minutes
January 17, 2012
Recreation Meeting**

Present: Wright, Foster, Meliones, Virzi, McShea

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Foster motion to accept minutes of January 3, 2012 with amendment. Second Meliones. Vote unanimous in favor.

Public Comment:

Bill Hearne- from January 4th email, January 9th the commission voted to instruct DPW to not do any work at Alpine Field. If change did you provide adequate explanation for the change and what was the intent and was the middle school given the same considerations? Brud Wrights objections may not reflect commission's view.

Jim VanSciver - on the turf light fee, rent turf 2 x year for \$25 per hour. What is the actual cost and maintenance cost. Does the school also pay this fee? What is the turf field replacement fund up to for totals? Is it on track for replacement of the field? Does the school also pay this fee? For Alpine field what is the drainage plan that DPW is proposing?

Wright - Bill Hearne - the issue why we took Alpine off was because DPW was moving ahead without discussion with us. McShea had heard that DPW had an estimate of @\$350,000 for t-ball, 60' diamond and moving soccer towards the woods. Gale report had indicated trying to put an artificial turf field there with lights. Commission indicated did not feel right place for artificial turf and lights. DPW was asked not to move ahead with plan ahead of the recreation commission. Commission did not want to have another misunderstanding not in lieu of other fields.

Virzi- would have circumvented the process. Hold off until it goes through this board and town meeting first.

Foster- no reason to spend any money until approved.

Wright - budgetary number from Tighe and Bond only, only would cost around \$10,000 if done inhouse.

McShea - drainage for Alpine she spoke to Don about Jim VanSciver's concerns. Jim asked to be kept in the loop, McShea agrees. Light fee covers maintenance of the lights at the high school and the cost of electricity etc at Cochituate. Turf field replacement fund takes in \$30,000- \$36,000 per year and is on track to fully replace turf field in 7+ years.

Sheila Carel - suggest making public comment period at end of meeting to make meeting more productive. More transparent. Change format of meeting, is that possible? To put it at end of meeting?

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Wright - would be fine with it at the beginning and end of the meeting.

Foster - public comment at the end of the meeting would be fine but would require a finite amount of time.

Meliones - The question is should be do two? Silly to have at the beginning and the end. 5 minutes in the beginning, 10 minutes at the end.

Virzi - public comment at the beginning and also the end.

Hockey rink lighting and use policy and town center playground.

Town Center playground.

Virzi - met with Tom Fay, Chris Brown, Sarkis, Fred and other to discuss town center pad and green. There are 2 town owned parcels - pad (building space about where the current "daycare" building sits.). "Green space"- intent and want to see what happens there. Tom Fay suggests putting together a committee with DPW, Recreation, Planning and a few residents. Take about 3 months for committee to report what should go there. Report out in June. Need board to send representative to this committee to help figure out things like lights, skating area, concerts, shows, etc. that we might want to schedule there.

Jennifer Pearlman - Town Center Playground - more than just for kids. Want to see town center succeed. Hannah Williams, excited to see that done but not enough parking and big draw from Natick and Framingham. Not likely to go see that playground. Busy, trucks, no parking. Town Center feels like you are included and you can find parking. At Alpine field it is deserted and dark and you are usually alone. Don't feel comfortable going there unless with a group, too isolated. Town center will draw from other towns and we need business to have good businesses there. Needs to be family friendly. This town is not very family friendly, hard to find place to get outside, town center will solve that. Place to wait for dinner and such. See this as a destination playground similar to what Sudbury has. Want to go somewhere really good.

Virzi - as to whether you could put a ball field there, not big enough and the balls would all be flying into the road and store fronts.

Foster - what is the parking capacity?

Lots of parking available.

Meliones - already gave our input years ago about a gazebo, concerts, maybe sledding.

Pearlman - splash pad would be great.

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Virzi - come to the beach. Does someone want to take on being on the committee?

Wright - I am willing to volunteer. We need to push these things. Don't want to duplicate Hannah Williams at the Town Center.

Meliones -when would meetings be?

Virzi - it is going to be proposed by Tom Fay to BOS and then they would ask for a representative from the Recreation Commission.

Foster - I would also be willing to do this.

Virzi - ok let's wait to see once committee forms, then we will send a rep. from the recreation commission.

Hockey Rink Lighting and use policy -

Virzi - 2 hockey rinks at Cochituate, were skating this past weekend.

Meliones - I heard the lights are only allowed for baseball, football, playground and basketball. The zoning interpretation does not include winter usage.

McShea - expressed concern about the light fee and not having source to pay for the lights.

Mike Wegerbauer - zoning allows the lights through 9pm. Talked to John Moynihan and Mike DiPietro trying to get real cost of using the lights. Talked to Dan Bennett and he says zoning allows this use.

Meliones - Neighbor approached Dan and Dan says it may be an issue.

Wright - the light issue is an easy one, more concerned over how it was vetted.

McShea - impact on the field not an issue if the ground is frozen when you put the tarp down.

Wright - not an issue with the ground, how it was vetted out not comfortable with.

Mike W. - demand charge per month for the lights. Discuss how we handle lights. Which nights, how long, how late etc. Brought issue to Bob's attention before it was built and Bob said okay, go for it. Putting up rinks is within DPW's jurisdiction.

Wright - sure that happened but doesn't mean it is still ok. Need to resolve that there may be some damage to those fields.

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Mike W. - maintenance of fields is the responsibility of the DPW so this shouldn't be an issue. Don says if it causes damage he can reseed and be ready for the baseball season.

Foster - I am concerned that that won't happen.

Wright - McShea is concerned about the turf.

McShea - will not comment.

Virzi - policy ahead of time for next season. Then we will know if there is damage or not. Will there be upset neighbors about the lighting use? Sense is it is a programming issue. What can we do about it at this point?

Wright - require them to put in a path that won't damage turf. Put lights on agenda for next meeting and notify abutters about discussion.

Mike W. - this has been on DPW agenda 3 x's and the majority of feedback has been positive. It is one couple that has expressed concern over the lights.

Foster - set rinks up next year at a different location.

Meliones - at the town green, with the gazebo and the hockey rink. This is more of a weekend thing, who determines when it is open?

Mike W.- when should lights be on? When open? Learn to skate program? Programming so you have a say over it, done in coordination with DPW or not.

Wright - moving forward, initiative and support of skating and hockey enthusiastic. Worth looking into no lights in afternoon not using.

Virzi - put on agenda for Feb. 7th to discuss the lighting.

Wright - public comment period on Feb. 7th, let public know.

Mike W. - I would recommend no lights after 8pm. This has been in the Wayland Patch and on Wayland enews about what is happening.

Virzi- doesn't feel it is a big level issue problem that requires abutter's to be sent letters.

Wright - even when we do things right people get upset. Publish in the paper? Programming decision?

Foster - regulation to use lights.

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McShea - to get clarification from Dan Bennett regarding zoning and winter usage.

Wright - I will defer about public notification. Send notice to the crier about meeting and put on agenda of Feb. 7th meeting.

Dudley Area Update -

Wright - there are 3 sections, recreation land, DPW land and BOS land. Deed restriction with conservation to allow only passive recreation, allowance for filtered drip waste irrigation. Struggling with leaving out section for 4 homes, why pick and choose site for affordable housing, look at whole town at once. If swap recreation land if 4 homes at time, come back to recreation commission. Don't declare surplus now. Preserve right to vote for or against in the future. Next meeting for them is January 24th.

Virzi - prioritize field upgrade options. Capital budgets past due we had \$530,000 for middle school and \$975,000 place holder for Loker Recreation area for FY13. Do we want to withdraw both requests, one or the other or go forward with a third plan. Provide economic argument for it. Example - artificial turf at Claypit, if use fields at sustainable level would need to cut use by 1/3rd, would impact revenue by x dollars. Artificial turf would generate x dollars or impact finances by x dollars.

Foster - are we talking extended or enhanced fees.

Virzi - self maintaining versus resting and maintaining.

Foster - are we also collecting money for replacement?

Virzi - example only. Trying to get master field plan done earliest would be FY14. Trying for fy13.

Foster - if we wait facilities would deteriorate more, need to go ahead with something this year.

Virzi- fin.com. senses adding capacity would be better received than rehabbing existing fields this year.

Foster - example Loker #1 area to develop and in the period of time it would take to develop.

Virzi - this would add capacity and revenue and would rest fields.

Foster - also allow us to rehab. Fields.

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Wright - my 2 priorities would be high school scenario and Nike site. Would like public comment on Nike before proceeding. High school is concerned about usage and collaboration.

Virzi - remember we need a 90' diamond, 3 60' diamonds and 2 multi-use fields.

Wright - turf with lights, \$1.5 million. Holiday Road - 90' possibility there.
Loker - 3 60' diamonds.

Virzi - do we still want to try for something for FY13?

Wright - yes

Meliones - yes if we put Loker in for \$975,000, priority is 3 60' diamonds and multiuse you do Loker for \$975,000 and you have \$530,000 left.

Virzi - I am not sure of best multiuse space yet. Not sure of new 90' diamond, Holiday Rd. with 1 multiuse of 1 90' at Old Connecticut Path. 3 60' diamonds at Loker would be good use. Get done at one field and take time to develop more solid plan.

Meliones - I am leaning towards Loker.

Foster - priority Loker.

Wright -aren't we in a position to do Loker and Nike? Like comprehensive plan?

Virzi - if we say Nike, I am not completely convinced that Nike is one we would do. Way up there, has positive attributes.

Wright - thought it a very good possibility. Shared with affordable housing, meeting many town goals.

Meliones - it will be a contentious town meeting - not sure if we should go for both, lots of people looking to cut costs. Loker we have talked about for a long time. If we give back money if we get partners to do this plan that sits well for future projects. Holiday Road is too soon.

Virzi - good point.

Wright- aren't we going to notify abutters.

Meliones - other meetings more likely to put in fields than any building.

Wright - concerned that 4 of us here - going by what we think or feel. Need to follow plan to notify abutters and can define now.

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Virzi - process agreed on put together master plan 60' and 90' diamonds and multiuse fields. Haven't done that yet but good idea that Loker will meet 60' diamond plan. Continue to put together a plan then have a big public hearing on field usage master plan.

Wright - put in budget and can always pull it. Figure final master plan and present in 1 maybe 2 meetings.

Foster - motion to put into finance committee budget of \$975,000 for Loker Recreation area for 3 60' diamonds. Second Virzi. Wright - reach out to Stu, and CPA prior to town meeting and maybe frozen ropes. McShea to take a stab at economic status and put on agenda for Feb. 7th.
Vote unanimous in favor. Virzi to notify finance committee.

Virzi - anything else of FY13?

Foster - agree with Meliones \$975,000 is sufficient for this year.

Outline major governance issues.-

Virzi - out shoot of meeting with BOS and DPW. Fred agreed to work with use rules and regulations, roles and responsibilities. So we all understand the rules. We need to provide some guidance to them.

Wright - I volunteered to do this.

McShea - would like to be brought into the loop before final decisions are made, not after.

Wright - 2 issues, not about programming, that is not the controversial part - master plan, capital budget - must go through us.

Virzi- Brud do you think we have this covered?

Wright - talked to Joe Nolan about when are we meeting? No action plan - 2 meetings a year not useful. Press forward and have meeting.

Wright - read through two paragraphs from wicked local, see attached.

Overall point - we aren't competing against anyone, we are just trying to run recreation programs in town. Nancy's time is split in ½ between 2 towns, not enough hours in the day to do what needs to be done here. Nancy should weigh in on things like playgrounds, rail trail, master field study, hockey rinks, and weigh in on all issues. Feel like this is a 40 hour/week job. Plan to meet with staff in Sudbury to see how it runs. DPW not clear on function and BOS is misguided in their approach.

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Virzi - draft a list, don't necessarily disagree with Brud, can you come back with a list for the March meeting?

Wright - yes I can do that. Will compile list and send out to the commission via McShea prior to March meeting.

Meliones - still concerned over agreement. Bylaw not clear on what commission's role it.

Foster - follow through was only 1 day.

Virzi - in fairness we also have not followed through with this.

Wright - to follow up with Fred Turkington.

New Business-

Virzi - Mike Lowery would like support again with a 2012 letter regarding DCR and the invasive weed management in Lake Cochituate. Need to vote to support efforts to go after the grant or not.

Meliones - motion to support the 2012 Wayland SWQC for DCR partnership for grant for invasive weeds at North Pond. Second Wright. Vote unanimous in favor.

Virzi- Thursday the school committee is meeting and will be discussing the school fields (January 19th). Wright to attend. Virzi to send email to Barb Fletcher and Wright to determine time etc.

Virzi - to continue to send updates to Malcolm Astley and Chris Brown.

Wright - what about us attending DPW or School Committee meetings?

Virzi - hope is that with updates back and forth will eliminate the need to have to sit in on so many meetings. Will also include Andy Irwin and Steve Correia on the updates.

Foster- if end up having to go to DPW perhaps they can put all the recreation stuff at the beginning of the meeting so in and out.

Meliones - ask about the beach. John Moynihan- vortex unit not in yet. Meet with 3 people next week or the week after.

Virzi - motion to adjourn, second Foster. Vote unanimous in favor.

Next meeting Feb. 7th.

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Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.