

**Wayland Recreation Department
Draft Minutes
March 16, 2015
Recreation Meeting**

Present: Brud Wright, Asa Foster, Frank Krasin, Jessica Brodie

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm – taped by WayCam

Public Comment:

- Mike W., 7 Blossom Lane – what may have changed in the plans for the turf field regarding plowing it with much of the snow now melted?
- Jessica spoke regarding what meetings and discussions have been taking place the past 6 months regarding the managements of recreational properties.
- Brud added to Jessica’s comments, further explaining the management idea for properties moving forward.
- Stephen Kadlick spoke on behalf of DPW regarding the removal of snow from the turf field. The main issue is the fact that the current ONI and the superseding conditions of the field with DEP.
- John McGagh – 24 Shamut Ave. – Are there other towns with research on the drainage of the field and the effects that plowing it would have on drainage? Stephen Kadlick commented on this regarding the ongoing maintenance that needs to be done to the turf field for the drainage features.
- Mike Lowrly – 120 Lake Shore Rd – DPW has made new wells that are farther away from the turf field, so zone 2 from the wells will be moving away from the Turf fields
- John Campbell – “The Rock” field is near the wells, has anyone ever thought of putting a well somewhere else in town?
- Tom Ciaca – Tom was responsible for the appeals that resulted in these outcomes. He feels putting a turf field in this spot was not the smartest action the town has done. A lot of research went into locating the ideal well location in the 1950’s and the current location was found to be the most ideal aquifer.
- Mike Lowrly – commented on buying water from the MWRA.
- Jim Bricker – 22 Grove Street – What is the main concern with plowing the turf field?
- Frank Krasin – what about sprinkling crumb rubber on the field to help promote melting?
- Mike Lindeman spoke regarding plowing the turf field and the steps we have taken to decide not to plow it.
- Mike W.– does the O&M Plan actually state that snow removal cannot occur on the turf field? Jessica followed up with reading the wording in the O&M Plan.
- Chris Brown – DPW – spoke regarding taking care of the fields for the long term is the town’s priority.

Spring/Summer/Fall field use for 2015

- Field Openings
 - o Jim Bricker – Alpine Field concerns about people using the field early when they are not open yet. Asked if we have appropriate signage to keep people off fields
- Scheduling Process – Updating dates collecting forms
 - o Beth – is there a carve out for employees of the town and/or teachers?
 - o Jim Bricker – Would it be possible to have an entire schedule of the fields online so they can see what the make-up times of fields are? Would it ever be possible to have a staff member on-call for the weekends in case we can make up games?
 - o Neil – Wayland Youth LAX president asked why we can not remove snow from the turf field? Brud advised him we discussed this earlier in the meeting and can further address this at the end of the meeting.
- Field Permits – Jessica will be sending out in the coming week or two.
- Field Layouts & Locations

Loker Conservation Site Concept Plan

- Brud outlined the Loker site and the GALE report that addressed the needs for more multi-purpose playing fields (1 turf field & 1 natural grass field)

- Went over the Loker proposal and how option 2 was selected as the ideal layout for the property.
- Touched on the Oxbow Meadows field, and possible re-furbishing of baseball field at Claypit Hill School.
- John Campbell – Oxbow Road – Asked about parking concerns for the Oxbow Meadows site. Brud explained how any field constructed there would be given scheduling restraints to prevent an overflow of parking at that site. Were there any plans discussed that placed two fields side by side or touching end to end? Brud explained that topography prevents this.
- John Boyle – 3 Cobblestone Circle – What is the cost and likelihood of another Turf Field being constructed at this site in town? Brud explained that CPC funding is more of a possibility for natural grass fields, but artificial turf fields are much more politically contentious. Funding a Turf field would likely need to come from another funding method because CPC would not be likely. Would there ever be a possibility of two turf fields being constructed side by side as conjoining fields?
 - Asa reflected on the past history of how much discussion took place when the current turf field was installed.
 - Brud touched on the process of determining the best location to place a new turf field – DPW site, High School site. We need to hear feedback from the users regarding where they really want to see the fields located.
- Dave Poole – WAYS – which site would have the least environmental impact to put a new turf field?
 - Brud answered this by explaining an environmental impact study would need to take place to determine
- Ted Harding – is the decision to fund an artificial turf field with CPC fund up to just that committee?
- Steve Curtin – Snake Brook road - CPC Funding committee can forward a recommendation to Town. Do any of the new field plans include lights? All artificial turf fields include lights, but not natural grass fields. Meeting for the town to vote on. If they vote on the article not in favor, then that article would not go to Town Meeting. Asked about the re-purposing of baseball fields at Claypit Hill School? Frank explained that we would need to spend at least one year to re-purpose the current Softball field at that school, and how would we water that field – irrigation restrictions may force wells for that site. Lights at Riverview was also discussed as an option, but concerns about neighbors.
- Steve Curtin – spoke on behalf of Baseball/Softball that the current fields do get a lot of use with the youth leagues and adult leagues, and having more baseball fields with lights is desirable.
- Dave Berry – 15 George Street - Could a petition article go to Town Meeting for a new turf field?
- Brud outlined the three options at Loker once again with price estimates to hear final feedback and comments.
 - Preference from one user is artificial Turf Fields
 - Designing both fields now is more economical for the future, than having to re-design a second field option in the future.
 - Would we light the natural grass field at Loker? Normally, you would not add lights to a natural grass field – multi-purpose – but could consider lights for a baseball field.
 - What are the relative growth rates for Baseball/Softball vs. Soccer/LAX fields to help determine the decision. The GALE report conclusions did not suggest any new baseball/softball fields were needed at this time.
 - Steve Curtin – Even though numbers in years past have gone down, baseball has been trending back up for the future
 - Steve Sandler – Commented on the numbers for baseball being up in the future, what is the economical reality of constructing the fields at the same time? We would need to substantiate that need in order to build another completely new baseball field.
 - Beth – Soccer – Suggested a unique practice environment where teams can practice skills such as kicking into a wall, hitting baseball into a net/wall...locations not on a field, but a location other than playing fields. Suggested a “ball wall” at the Nike Site for such a practice location. Use the Nike site as a “training space” with alternative uses and facilities.

- John – can the Recreation Department start blocking space ahead of time at other local facilities for early season practices?
- Suggested looking into the options of reserving alternative spaces for early season practices at “River’s college” for indoor spaces that we could offer to leagues and work into their early season fees?
- Jim Bricker – does support option 2 to be designed.
- Brud articulated how our Master Plan is to address all users needs – baseball, soccer, LAX – as a whole and eventually fields would be constructed.
- Reed Newton (Soccer) – Option 1 does not help us at all because of the smaller size field. The larger multi-purpose field option gives more playable options with multiple size fields
- It is important to explain at Town Meeting to why we need these fields and not only the positive sides to building them, but also the negative impacts to not building them and what that would do to our youth leagues. Fields would have to be closed if safety is concern – quantify the issue so people understand the issue with current level of play and conditions of the fields.
- The cost to build fields in the future it always inflated, so many felt building the fields at the same time would be the most cost effective option.
- Steve Curtin – commented on the CPC funding allocation and how 1.5% of every tax payers bill is going into this fund. The money is there, so residents have to voice their opinions of where that money gets spent.
- Discussion about the brief history of the Loker site and the property being used for recreational purposes.
- Building the Loker site out before a new Turf Field could potentially pose problems/challenges with justifying the need for that field in the future.
 - o Building a turf field is another discussion that has its own talking points that need to be pointed out.
- Jessica to take names and user lists of who to contact with future meetings and comments. Send any future articles and press releases to the users directly via email and other direct chains.

Brud asked for a final general concusses of the Design Option 2. Hearing and seeing that the groups are in support of building Option #2 in its entirety.

Oxbow Meadows Site Development

- This was discussed in the above sections of the meeting. Ideas expressed about this site included parking concerns, as well as possibly making this a practice location for early season play with features such as “ball walls” and running track. The recreation commission is seeking \$20,000 at the 2015 Town Meeting for design funds, and will hold more meetings as the design & planning process continues.

New Turf Field Update

- This was discussed in the above portions of the meeting. In summary, the Recreation Commission would like to construct an additional, new artificial turf field somewhere in Wayland. Possibly sites being considered include the old DPW site at the Middle School or the High School JV Baseball field area.

Turf Field Plowing

- Covered earlier in meeting during Public comment and Spring Field Use portion of meeting.

Public Comment:

- Send out a game plan of how the public can rally support for future projects. Jess to make a “cheat sheet” for who to tell, facts about history for each site, timeline moving forward – send a summary of everything we talked about tonight and moving forward.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of meeting, if any:

None.

Adjourn – Frank motion, Asa 2nd. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.