

WAYLAND RECREATION FIELD USER ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Minutes

February 29, 2016

In Attendance: Jessica Brodie (Rec Comm), Maureen Tillett (Boosters), Reed Newton (Board Commissioner), Heidi Seaborg, Brud Wright (Rec Comm, Chair), Mike Lindeman (DPW), Ted Harding (Wayland Youth Football), Paul Nechipurenko (Wayland Adult Field Use Rep), Heath Rollins (High School Athletic Director), Stephen Sa., Chris Maietta (W/W Crew)

The General Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

7:00: Public Comment – None.

7:05: Approval of Previous meeting minutes – February 1, 2016 meeting minutes re-sent to Jessica for review.

7:10: Offered GALE Report (including other related field project documents) from Rec Dept for review

7:15: Discussion of current and potential future Recreation Capital Projects:

- Reed Newton stated that in last meeting we discussed what was currently out there in terms of options that we can review and assess, at which point we would then go back to our groups. Reed Newton then asked if the respective representatives had spoken with their groups to determine support for a turf field in town. John Taxiarchis, for Wayland Youth Lacrosse, responded that an internal meeting was still pending but unofficially believed that his group will support the request for a new turf field as well as any additional fields which may be made available. Maureen Tillett, for Wayland Boosters, responded that the Boosters support the request for a new additional turf fields, but that there are possible concerns from the population of parents surrounding the possible locations and that they may take issue – needs to be something that works for town. Reed Newton, for Wayland Youth Soccer, said they supported the request. Ted Harding, for Wayland Youth Football, stated that there was support for new fields as well. General consensus was that amongst user groups support the request for new fields, turf or otherwise. Middle School location is great but any location within the town would be acceptable.
- Proposed turf field being placed at Loker has a myriad of issues. Brodie said Licensed Site Professional had inspected the site at Loker and reported back that there are so many uncertainties with the history of the property. It would have to test any well water for at least 5 years to see if there was any effect from irrigation – but such test will not be undertaken as its too expensive. CPA funds were return as they granted to research installing a grass field. So, Loker is

out for a grass field but may remain a tentative site for an artificial turf field per Brud Wright.

- Mike Lindenau from DPM mentioned that the former DPW site may be located in a Zone 1, which is a well collection zone – adding to possible further restrictions. The Zone 1 location drains into the Dudley Pond area so the possible run off could be an issue. Mike Lindenau also mentioned that there have been discussions surrounding alternative media for the current and proposed turf fields. Heath Rollins spoke about the process of replacing the media – crumb rubber, cornhusk, cork – as well as associated costs. He also mentioned that in many towns have performed multiple studies about the relative associated risks.
- Heidi Seaborg posed a question to the group about the associated risks on playing on artificial turf and asked what the group's thoughts were. The response was that a turf location is a necessity and that collectively the group would always search for the alternative with the least risk.
- If the proposed artificial turf field is too problematic or un-approvable at the DPW site then Mike Lindenau suggested moving the proposed artificial turf field up to the side of the Middle School. If designed properly additional space could (e.g. baseball field, etc) could be added in the future. Will still be an irrigation issue at either location. DPW has rules in place that restrict irrigation to plots under 15000sf. Grass is a luxury for a front lawn but on a playing field its for safety. And the town will enact a ban as it does every year – so any site that is looking to irrigate should have a drilled well on the site. Issue then becomes the need to determine well capacity and then plan the site around it based on the water that can be provided. To provide irrigation you need a 10,000 gallon cistern.
- In making DPW site into a natural site, Maureen Tillett questioned whether the run off of fertilizing chemicals would cause an adverse environmental impact. Mike Lindenau explained that there would be an issue if there wasn't a retention basin utilized to capture certain run off. Water is biggest issue, then fertilizer which is primarily nitrogen. Phosphorus isn't used much any more as a fertilizer except for starter seed when establishing a field.
- Discuss regarding the articles which need a 2/3rds vote to pass to enable the use the funds. One article for the conveyance of library land, one article for the establishment of the stabilization fund, 3<sup>rd</sup> article for the spending of the monies in the stabilization fund. There is currently \$400,000.00 in the revolving fund, article covers spending \$100,000.00 on town hall field renovation and \$50,000.00 for a feasibility study of the proposed DPW site for an artificial turf field. \$60,000.00 to go back to Community of Preservation Act fund (a Wayland committee) – if the act is adopted then a town can get matching funds from the Commonwealth. Mission is open space, historical, recreational.

- Mike Lindenman from DPW discussed the notion of a field classification system. Asked what are the expectations of the user groups. By way of example: 11v11 field with irrigation is a Class A, 8v8 field without irrigation is a Class B, mirco-fields are Class C. Once the classification system is established then a plan can be developed as to priority for renovation, rest, etc. Mike Lindenman stated that generally fields open on March 25 and close at some point in September which allows very little time for maintenance and repair. Jessica Brodie spoke to the idea of utilizing a resting plan. Rec Dept needs input from the Fields Advisory Group input. Need all user groups to be aligned and on board with field repairs and taking them off line.
- Paul Nechipurenko suggested that the quickest way to allow for all of these matters to be accounted for would be for the utilization for additional fields either being under used or not being used at all. Added capacity allows the pain level to be greatly reduced.
- Project 4 - Alpine Field could be design-engineered to add some usable fields. Mike Lindenman spoke to the fact that it is a native American artifact area in Alpine and there was sufficient people opposing it. Would have to add some sort of barrier to keep errant balls. Technically still owned by the school committee. MOU is underway to establish process to guide the future. Need grading plans. Capital field money to be used.
- Project 3 - Payne Estate (Greenways) is still an option. 10 acres in the center is set aside for recreational usage but there is no deeded right of way. Mike believes that there is an agreement with the Town, Traditions, Fish and Wildlife and two other parties to put in a road down to the fishing lodge – but it hasn't happened. There may be an obligation here which runs with the land so it is worth exploring. Mike talked about the issue of draining of the field.
- Project 2 - Discussion of using a pending \$20,000.00 for preparing Oxbow Meadows. Another possible location but there was residential pushback and it runs into the same situation as Loker in terms of irrigation. Would have to meet with neighbors but it does fall under control of Rec Dept. Maureen Tillett asked what is needed to get moving on this project. Brud Wright requested that we confirm we are ready to move forward on this project as a C Field.
- Project 1 - Renovation of town field starting by putting a well in at a cost of \$10,000.00. Would require at least some time off of the scheduling so that the work could occur and allow the field to rest. Suggestion of drilling a test well to determine if there is enough output as all natural fields will require water to stand up to the constant.

7:45: Discussion of other capital projects. Reprioritizing of capital maintenance funds.

- Some things cannot be discussed until MOU is in place. JV baseball field is in need of repair. Is there a field that we feel is in dire need of repair? Establishing

a grading of the fields by class will assist the DPW. John Taxiarchis spoke to conditions of fields behind tennis courts.

- Brud Wright spoke to inter-municipal agreement and the formation of an action plan and what our money can be used for.
- Discussion on the repair needed for the high school turf. Portions need to be reattached and entire turf needs to be re-crumbled as mentioned before. Jessica Brodie said that the suggested approach is to revisit the master plan. In doing so, the track needs to be replaced if the turf is to be re-surfaced and when that happens the bleachers need to come into ADA compliance. Brud Wright says he has been collecting money and there is 10,000 to spend per the MOU to answer the questions about the lighting, track, and bleachers can be separated from the turf in terms of repair and maintenance.

8:10 Jessica Brodie spoke about the many articles which Rec Dept has a piece of. Of great importance is the discussion surrounding the spending cap and if the legislature will approve it to go up – meaning that articles would get pulled. Discussion about having users make the monies as a donation and not a fee – then there is no interference and user groups retain control.

8:15 John Taxiarchis requested the purchase and installation of a ball wall for lacrosse rebounding. Discussion about where it could go and approval of the town.

8:20: Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair within 48 hours of the meeting – None.

8:25: Next Advisory Group Meeting – March 28, 2016 at 7:15pm, large conference room in Town Hall

8:30: Adjourn