

TOWN OF WAYLAND – RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Public Meeting Minutes

Posted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017 AT 7:00PM

Wayland Town Building | 41 Cochituate Road | Wayland MA 01778

Held in Large Hearing Room, videotaped and broadcast by [WayCAM](#)

Present Asa Foster, Chair; Frank Krasin; Heidi Seaborg; Chris Fay
Recreation: Ed Sanderson

Absent Brud Wright

Guests Gene Bolinger, RLA, Vice President, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
Cass Chroust, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
Kevin MacKinnon, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.

7:00 PM SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION #1:

(See attached School Committee Agenda)

7:40 PM

(Approx.) DISCUSSION WITH THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND PRESENTATION BY WESTON & SAMPSON REGARDING THE HIGH SCHOOL MASTER PLAN FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS AND STADIUM:

- Recreation Commission attended regular meeting of the School Committee to jointly hear the presentation by Weston & Sampson and discuss the current status of the high school master plan
- Weston & Sampson provided update of master plan process (2 public meetings to date), how we got to where we are, information on previous studies, existing conditions and needs, urgency of repairs (failing track, lack of ADA access, not enough rectangular fields in town, current fields in disrepair, etc.), site constraints, environmental compliance and drinking water wellhead protection, preferred improvements plan, budget and phasing considerations, and potential schedule for implementation (see attached presentation slides).
- Questions & Answers
 - o Frank – why do we need to move the girls' softball field from front of school to back of school?
 - Gene – not correctly solar oriented, drop off in the terrain in part of the outfield, no outfield fence, and it allows tennis courts and basketball courts to move closer to the school entrance, allowing the general public easier access to use these facilities while school is in session.
 - o Jeanne Downs – concerned about timing of funding. Need to discuss with Fin Com
 - o Ben Keefe – Need to approach Fin Com about possibility of obtaining design money in the fall.
 - o Asa – what is timeframe with DEP to clear previous order of conditions and new order of conditions?
 - Kevin – previous order of conditions could be addressed in a matter of months, not years. Current project would fall under the jurisdiction of the town's Conservation Commission, not DEP.

- Asa – what is the issue of safety to continue to use the track and turf?
 - Heath Rollins – last year we began moving high completion track meets to neighboring towns rather than use the track at the high school. The track needs repairs as soon as possible. The turf is now 10 years old and was slated to last for 10 years. It is showing its wear and needs replacing sooner than later.
- Asa – how will the DEP and Conservation Commission look at the “wet” field and “rock” field, in terms of leaving them as is within the footprint of the Zone II wellhead protection area?
 - Kevin – the fields are not within their jurisdiction as they are grandfathered uses. However, Weston & Sampson would work with the town to continually improve best management practices at the fields to minimize the potential impact to the wells from runoff from the two fields
- Asa – the Rec Commission and School Committee will approach Fin Com together about the needs at the high school fields and the possibility of getting some funding, design and possibly construction, at fall town meeting

9:45 PM

(Approx.) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PRESENTATION BY WESTON & SAMPSON REGARDING THE HIGH SCHOOL MASTER PLAN FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS AND STADIUM:

- Boosters supports the plan and are happy to see the Rec Commission and School Committee working together; the safety issues at the track and turf are real
- Will the reduction in tennis courts from 10 to 6 cause a capacity issue?
 - Jeanne Downs – 6 courts are adequate for Varsity and JV high school teams and games, but not enough for hosting large tournaments
 - Heath Rollins (via email on 4/26/2017) – 6 courts will reduced capacity, but still provide more courts than the average high school.
- Seems like we are paying a lot of money and losing tennis facilities
- Middle School Woods – while this is not directly part of the High School Master Plan, it is tangentially related as the town and school consider additional fields. This land has been studied extensively in the past. The previous work should be reviewed and discussed with the previous committees that were involved in the studies early in the Town Wide Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan process to ensure we understand the issues prior to developing recommendations.
- As use decreases on the Rock and Wet fields, how will the town replace those rectangular fields?
 - Heath Rollins (via email on 4/26/2017) – We still plan on using the Rock and Wetland fields, we are not planning major improvements.
 - Asa – Town Wide Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan is beginning now and rectangular fields will be part of that study
- Mike Lowery – Based on Weston and Sampson’s presentation, the draft costs for the HS Master Plan are \$6.4 - \$8.0. There will be other competing projects in town for the money needed for this particular project so important to discuss with Fin Com sooner than later.
- A conversation is needed re: artificial turf. There are safety issues, not only related to toxicity but also thermal issues and mechanical issues (i.e. like ACL issues). Be careful when reading reports about that downplay the issues related to turf fields, especially those on the Rec Commission website.
 - Heath Rollins (via email on 4/26/2017) – Artificial turf is needed.

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- Two additional comments received by Jeanne Downs received on April 26th, a few days after the School Committee meeting:
 - o Given the way baseball participation is going, do we really need 2 baseball fields? Would the space be better utilized with more rectangular fields?
 - Heath Rollins (via email on 4/26/2017) – The comment on baseball participation is incorrect. Our baseball numbers are larger than boys lacrosse. The high school and town will need two full size fields available and it makes sense to keep them at the high school.
 - o It was pointed out last night that this master plan won't solve 100% of the usage issues in town. Do we need to have a town master plan for fields in place before we go to the town and ask for money for this project?

10:00 PM

(Approx.) SEE ATTACHED SCHOOL COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS
