

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020, 7:00 AM**

Pursuant to Gov. Baker's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 modifying the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee, to ensure the safety of all participants, held its meeting remotely via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86828354273>, Meeting ID: 868 2835 4273.

*Members present: Alex Cobb, Trevor MacDonald, Melissa Crocker, Charlie Hipwood, Mark Ferris, Ben Polimer, Mike McGrath, Christopher Fitzgerald, Pete Foley.*

*Members absent: John Power, Michelle Callanan*

*Guests: Kristin Barbieri, Brian Farless*

The meeting began at 7:05 AM.

**Resident Comments:** Kristin Barbieri, and invited guest, was formally thanked for her efforts in volunteering with the RMPSC, especially for her contributions to the Recreation Master Plan. Ms. Barbieri previously tendered her resignation, effective September 1.

**Field and Grounds update – invited guest Brian Farless, Superintendent, East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project.**

Mr. Farless gave a report on EEE concern for 2020. In 2019, 12-human cases of EEE and 6-deaths were reported in East Middlesex County, with 5% of captured mosquitoes testing positive. This year, EEE is still around but at a much lower level – the fifth human case was just reported and less than 1% of mosquitoes are testing positive. We are late enough in the year that the mosquito population is dwindling and the EEE threat is minimal, especially compared to last year. The reported cases and positive mosquitoes are far enough away from Weston that the Town is considered a low risk level, mosquito spraying stopped in mid-August.

Mr. Farless also discussed strategies that are used to help control mosquito population and the spread of EEE, West Nile, and other mosquito borne illnesses.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the August 21 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Update on field use for fall sports**

Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. McGrath reported on the activities being conducted for fall sports within the school and community programs. At the school complex, High School sports will use fields 1-6, youth sports will use fields 7-14. This will avoid having youth teams stand around waiting for high school teams to finish practicing.

Youth Soccer and Weston Little League are both active this fall, all activities have been approved through the Town's Emergency Management process. Flag Football is a new group that started up this year and raised concern among some of the Committee members. Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. McGrath had been working closely with the Flag Football group and stated that they met all requirements for field use, including receiving approval by the Town's Emergency Management Team. Mr. Fitzgerald verified that the EMT worked closely with them as well to ensure the proper protocols were developed, they have been approved for Level 1 and Level 2 activities as defined by the state with the necessary safety protocols. Rosters were also being verified.

#### **Memorial Pool project update**

Ms. Crocker and Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Recreation Commission was preparing to request \$250,000 in design fees using Community Preservation Act funds. They discussed the draft plans, including replacing the filters, improving concessions, improving accessibility, and adding recreational amenities. The goal is to be on the warrant at the next Town Meeting, whenever that takes place.

#### **Field and Grounds update (Continued)**

Mr. Polimer shared and the attached Field and Grounds update.

#### **Next meeting:**

Friday, October 16, 7 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 AM.

## **Attachment 1: Field and Grounds Report.**

Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

- School and recreation grounds crews regularly mowing, trimming facilities as needed.
- Hot and dry weather has pushed out irrigation systems to the max watering for landscapes and fields during the last month. Monitoring all irrigated properties and adjusting schedules as needed. Last significant rainfall event was September 10 with 0.43" and September 2 with 0.23". Cooler fall temperatures and heavy morning dew has helped plants recover.
- Watering trees with tree bags as needed. Some are over 7 years old and showing drought stress including defoliation.
- Replacing broken irrigation heads, nozzles as needed. Replaced 2 rain sensors on Field 2-4 and Field School systems. Irrigation deficiencies are very noticeable during drought.
- Fields were fertilized for fall on September 2.
- Fields sprayed for crabgrass and applied a wetting agent to help hold water on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- School grounds crew finished getting school properties ready for the start of school. Hedge trimming, tree pruning, cleaning out beds, weeding and mulching as needed.
- Helped prepare Proctor Field for Town Meeting that occurred on September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Assisted recreation department in setup and execution of the 9/11 flag memorial on the Town Green.
- Invasive plants were treated for Con Com at Highland conservation area, WAIC, Town Green.
- Participated in Pollinator Subgroup of the Water Conversation Working Group on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Group would like to see some formal pollinator habitat in Town owned land.
- Assisted school custodial staff in flushing water heaters and outdoor hose spigots before the start of school.
- Regularly watering newly planted grass seed from spring and plantings around CH.
- Working with school and recreation on proper procedures for fields, and court usage.
- Receiving use forms for fall youth sports. Soccer fields painted for fall use.
- Working on septic issues at Fire Station Headquarters.
- School grounds dug up septic covers and electrical boxes on Field School Field for a septic issue. Area was reseeded when fix was complete.

- Dead or dying hazardous trees were removed on September 8<sup>th</sup> around the HS. These were a hazard to pedestrians, vehicles and overhead utilities.
- Proctor Field was deep cleaned by outside contractor with tractor mounted sweeper with vacuum filter and magnet. This is yearly maintenance done besides our monthly in-house grooming
- Working with Town Center Project consultants on irrigation system to be installed next year.
- Starting to work on FY22 capital expenditures and 5-year outlook.
- Outside consultant working on submitting an NOI for hydroraking HS Pond.
- Continuing working new Case Campus buildings and wayfinding signs. Installation is 75% complete.
- School grounds continue to move equipment/setups for custodial staff, IT Department, wastewater treatment plant deliveries, mail, amazon deliveries. Will continue regular moves for the district. Start of school has made this a priority. PPE, air filters, cleaning supplies moved daily.
- Continuing to meet regularly with sports turf managers around the country on zoom and discuss issues relating to our profession. Helping to release "Road to Recovery" guides for sportsturf managers nationally.
- Finished Invasive Plant Certification program through UMASS remotely.