

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020, 7:00 AM**

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

Members absent: John Power, Pete Foley

The meeting began at 7:06 AM.

Resident Comments: Ms. Crocker wanted the RMPSC to consider looking into adding pickleball courts for the town sooner. She mentioned courts she used in a different town that had enough room to place two pickleball courts on one tennis courts, then a separate set of nets specific to pickleball were stored on site. Mr. MacDonald supported her request to look into the possibility of implementing that at Burchard Park.

Mr. McGrath mentioned that the MIAA is considering adding pickleball as a high school sport in Massachusetts.

Mr. Hipwood stated that he observed private lessons being given on the Middle School Courts on Saturday mornings. Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Polimer and Mr. McGrath stated that there has been an increase in private lessons on all facilities, they are not allowed but enforcement of this has been ineffective. Committee members agreed to include this topic on future agendas to be addressed moving forward.

Minutes: The minutes from the September 18 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Mask use among youth sports.

Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Hipwood went over the current policies for the youth sports they are involved with regarding mask wearing. Specific regulations change per sport depending on the likelihood of two people coming within close proximity of each other. In general, masks are to be worn with the provision for “mask breaks” when not in close proximity to people, masks are mandatory on benches, with coaches, spectators, etc. Some sports that the state considers lower risk – such as tennis – do not require masks during play.

Budgets, including considerations for Burchard Park maintenance per Weston Little League request

Mr. Hipwood reminded the committee of the memo that was submitted in May on behalf of Weston Little League to re-structure the maintenance at Burchard Park such that it is managed by the Town and Weston Little League contributes to funding, similar to what the soccer and lacrosse programs in town do. He had mentioned this to a Select Board member and was of the impression they were that member thought the request was reasonable.

The Committee discussed the possibility of using Community Preservation Act funds for some of the capital projects needed such as rehabilitating the infields. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that state rules would

allow for CPA funding to be used, but the local Community Preservation Committee has historically taken the position that maintenance should be borne by the town, but they would support enhancement of properties. The RMPSC would need to make the case that this type of work would support enhancement.

Motion: for the Recreation master Plan Steering Committee to begin the process for pursuing CPC Funding for needed capital renovations at Burchard Park.

Motion: Mr. Ferris, Second: Mr. Cobb

Rollcall Vote: Ms. Crocker – affirmative, Mr. Cobb – Affirmative, Ms. Callanan – Affirmative, Mr. Ferris – Affirmative, Mr. Hipwood – Affirmative, Mr. MacDonald – Affirmative.

Motion carries unanimously.

Mr. Polimer noted that he is developing a 5-year capital plan right now, that material costs have held steady for the past year so he does not anticipate a huge increase in operating expenses, but is considering replacing some equipment that is reaching the end of its useful life.

Process to fill the open at-large position

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the open position has been posted and announced and encouraged members of the committee to recruit candidates if they are aware of a person who may be beneficial to the committee.

Ms. Crocker mentioned a person who considered volunteering for the Town recently and could be beneficial to the Committee because of their background. The Committee asked Mr. Fitzgerald to inquire of their interest and possibly invite to a future meeting.

There was also discussion about more active representation from Weston Youth Soccer. Ms. Callanan knew of a couple of people who she could approach to help with that representation.

Memorial Pool CPC Request.

Ms. Crocker and Mr. Fitzgerald updated the committee on the Recreation Commission's request for design fees for the Weston memorial Pool. They presented at the October CPC meeting and have been asked to come back for the October 26 public hearing. The CPC seems supportive of the ideas of expanding concessions, adding amenities, improving accessibility and improving the reception area, but questioned using CPC funds for the filters.

The Recreation Commission is also forming a citizens' committee to help building support and weigh in on recreational amenities for consideration.

Grounds update

See Attachment 1.

Next meeting:

Friday, November 20, 7 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 AM.

Attachment 1: Field and Grounds Report.

Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- October 16th, 2020

- School and recreation grounds crews regularly mowing, trimming facilities as needed.
- Starting to work on leaves on grounds daily.
- Hot and dry weather has continued into October. We had our first significant rainfall event in over 6 weeks on Tuesday, 1.25". Monitoring all irrigated properties and adjusting schedules as needed. Cooler fall temperatures and heavy morning dew has helped plants recover, but still seeing drought stress on mature trees, and turfgrass. With more rain today and tonight, we will cease watering on most if not all properties now.
- Watering trees with tree bags as needed. Some are over 7 years old and showing drought stress including defoliation. Tree bags have been removed as of this week. Coordinating the filling with DPW.
- Lawns around the HS/MS and Case Campus have been core aerated with in house staff. Thin areas were seeded after aeration.
- Fields- recreation and schools (39 acres) were core aerated by outside vendor on October 8-9. Some hand seeding of high traffic areas occurred after aeration.
- Fields- Field 3,4,6-11, Field School Field, Alphabet and Woodland School (19 acres) deep tined aerated on October 14-15.
- Main wiring harness for Alphabet Field irrigation system was replaced due to damage from previous deep tine aerations. Should fix long term communications/reporting issues.
- 2 small carpet issues were noticed on Field 1, have contacted RAD for warranty repairs.
- School grounds crew removed storm damage from Case House on October 8th from previous night's storm. 2 large white pines had large leaders removed. Surveying if trees need to be removed.
- Working with tree contractor on plant health care options for Beech trees around Case House.
- Arborists deep root fertilized Case Campus trees (30), on 9/28.
- Cleaned up perennials, planted over 200 new bulbs in Pastor Park.
- Planted 400 daffodils around Country School Entrance, COA Entrance, Community Center Entrance.
- School Grounds crew cleaning and sanitizing school playgrounds weekly.
- Regularly watering newly planted grass seed from spring and plantings around CH.
- Meet with Schools IT Director on long term planning for connectivity for irrigation controllers.

-Starting to think about 2021 agronomics, early ordering materials. We save up to 9% on buying now for 2021.

-Working with school and recreation on proper procedures for fields, and court usage.

-Working on septic issues at Fire Station Headquarters.

-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 hydro raking HS Pond.

-Continuing working new Case Campus buildings and wayfinding signs. Installation is 75% complete.

-School grounds continue to move equipment/setup for custodial staff, IT Department, wastewater treatment plant deliveries, mail, box deliveries. Will continue regular moves for the district. COVID supplies moved for the school district regularly.