

MEETING MINUTES

Permanent Municipal Building Committee (PMBC)
Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Town Building, Board of Selectman Room

Attendees:

PMBC Members:	Eric Sheffels, Brian Chase, Michael Gitten, James Riley
High School Fields/Stadium:	Jeanne Downs, Michael Hoyle
Loker Recreation Field:	Asa Foster
Loker Windows & Doors:	Jeanne Downs, Michael Hoyle
Ex Officio:	Ben Keefe
Guests:	Gene Bolinger, Lisa Slonus, Larry Keegan, Michael Moonan, Marie Rudiman, Kevin MacKinnon, Mike Lowry, Don Millette, Tom Sciacca, Linda Segal, Brud Wright, Tom Maglione, John Sax, Sylvia Diaz, George Uveges, Kurt Trampusch

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by James Riley who stated that WayCam is recording this meeting. He stated the agenda will be modified to accommodate audience members who have time constraints. Well head protection will begin the discussion, then infill materials, and finally the traffic study. He requested that the public identify themselves when asking questions. The Committee's mission tonight is to analyze the design documents and budgets for the High School and Loker Recreation projects.

Public Comment

John Sax, Willowbrook, handed out a flier that described three issues he feels are unresolved pertaining to the Loker Field project: traffic, zinc pollution from crumb rubber field runoff and cost.

Tom Maglione, Rice Road, requested that the Committee apply due diligence equally to the Loker site as they have for the High School site. He would like members to visit the site.

High School Athletic Fields and Stadium Renovations – Discussion of Well Head Protection Issues

Gene Bolinger introduced his staff by expertise. The design documents will be posted on PMBC's website. Gene gave a power point presentation of the design updates for the two High School sites. Kevin MacKinnon, a hydrologist, described the surficial geology of the site. He stated that under static conditions water flows from east to west toward the Sudbury River. To identify the capture zone of the area, wells were installed in 2010 and monitored for 7 days. Kevin calculated that less than 2% of the flow from the turf field reaches the Happy Holly wells when he applied a longer period for the test, an assumed 180 day drought condition with steady pumping.

A resident asked how the flow amount is calculated. Kevin described the standard hydrologist technique for particle tracking. Discussion ensued concerning the draining system. As yet, the storm water system has not been finalized. Gene stated the final design will go before the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission for approval.

Tom Sciacca, Rolling Lane, brought up the expense of the High School septic system. He also stated that if there is anything harmful in the fields, it will impact the wells. A resident stated that the water report received last week showed zinc levels in the safe range. Reference was made by a resident to the DEP's mandate to the Manchester/Essex Regional High School to redirect flow away from the wells. There is no planned irrigation.

Sylvia Diaz, Willowbrook, asked about the time frame for final decisions. Eric said issues will be settled within 2-3 weeks. John Schuler, Old Connecticut Path, BoH member, asked about data from the monitoring wells. Mike Lowery responded that in 2014 the Department of Public Works commissioned a study of all wells by the Water Department. There was no significant difference between the Happy Hollow wells and other town wells. Don Millette, the water superintendent, stated sampling is done on the second Tuesday of each month for each pumping well that includes secondary contaminants such as zinc and lead.

Warranty and maintenance issues were discussed. Mike Lowery stated that the current order of conditions limits what sorts of materials can be used to clean and maintain the field. Also, there is a requirement that all chemicals be reported to the Board of Health. Tom Sciacca raised the issue of testing for emerging contaminants. Ongoing monitoring is an issue to be addressed.

George Uveges, Willowbrook, member of the Finance Committee, questioned whether the decision for a synthetic turf field is final. Eric explained the Committee's role to its clients, the School Committee and the Recreation Commission. Tom Sciacca brought up the Conservation Commission's regulatory role. He also brought up the potential issue of plastic pollution.

Marie Rudiman, a toxicologist, addressed the crumb rubber issue and reported on sampling results. She stated that recent crumb rubber studies show that crumb rubber does not cause health hazards in humans. Research shows that crumb does leach zinc. The levels of zinc are very small and would not cause aquatic toxicity. A resident questioned the process. The Fenn study analysis was described. Analysis of the study was within guidelines with very low concentrations of semi-volatiles.

Michael Moonan described the design for the synthetic turf system components in detail. Advances in the crumb rubber product were discussed. He stated there have been many improvements in sourcing and cleaning the product. Gene stated the turf can handle an 8" rainfall.

Eric Sheffels asked for the percentage of new fields countrywide that are using crumb rubber. W & S stated about 95% of new fields use crumb rubber including the NFL and MLB fields that use synthetic turf. California and New York have banned crumb rubber based on a claim from a soccer coach in Washington in 2011. Studies in 2016 refute carcinogenic claims of crumb rubber. The pros and cons of using crumb rubber and alternatives were discussed. Crumb rubber must meet the same ASTM standards that are used for children's play toys.

The temperature of crumb rubber fields was addressed. Scheduling and management of the fields during extreme heat are addressed through protocols. Jeanne Downs responded to Tom Sciacca's comment that the High School has protocols in place for playing on fields in extreme heat. Brud Wright stated that cost is not the factor in choosing crumb rubber. He stated that choosing crumb rubber is based on the fact that it has the best features for players. Jim noted that infill materials are still being evaluated.

Discussion ensued on whether the old drainage system performed as intended.

Mike Lowry requested that the Committee establish a protocol to test the drainage system that includes ongoing operating costs.

Loker Recreation Field – Traffic Study discussion

Lisa Slonus, PE, PTOE, described the methodology used for the traffic study and the traffic modeling software tools. Traffic counts were conducted in March on school days during weekday commuter times and Saturday midday. Willowbrook residents recounted the increasing traffic load on Rt. 30. Linda Segal expressed her hope that safety concerns be considered as the field will be attracting young people.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Members' Concern

None

Other business not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours prior to meeting.

None

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Riley, seconded by Brian Chase, and approved with a vote of 8-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.