

TOWN OF WAYLAND – RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Posted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law

Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Wayland Town Building | 41 Cochituate Road | Wayland MA 01778
Large Hearing Room; broadcast on waycam.tv

Present Commissioners: Asa Foster, Co-Chair; Brud Wright, Co-Chair; arrives at 8:25 PM, Kelly Pierce; David Pearlman arrives @ 7:15 PM; Chris Fay telephones into meeting at 8:05 PM, arrives at 8:25 PM.

Recreation: K. Brenna, Director; C. Baldwin, Assistant Director

Absent: None.

Guests: Stewart Millerd, Melody Lane; Dave Zampese, Sedgemoor Rd.; Erin Newton, Bennett Rd.; Trevor Chisholm, Pequot Rd.; Phil Rosenfield, Draper Rd.

7:15 PM MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Asa Foster called meeting to order, announced meeting would be recorded/broadcast on television by WayCAM, and a roll call vote would be required, if necessary, due to remote participation by Chris Fay.

7:15 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

Stewart Millerd: Town beach parking lot needs to be lined. Dogs running everywhere defecating, fighting, etc. Believes the property is not patrolled properly with respect to pets. Suggests more non-residents (unconfirmed) attending the beach on Sundays and there should be a tollbooth on entrance road. Gate to the cemetery is open. This is not a function of Rec. Dept., but rather DPW. Thinks signage would help keep dogs/dog owners out. Suggested a gate at end of Parkland Drive would prevent people from getting into the beach lot.

K. Brenna informs Millerd there are plans to restripe the parking lot. Discusses the ongoing problem of people sneaking into the beach. Explains that Rec uses computer scanners, fencing to prohibit this during the season. Off-season no staff present so it would be difficult to monitor. Beach is locked during off-season. Signage is on fence at beach gate. Often times signs are stolen or vandalized.

Dave Zampese: Requests installation of dugouts with a roof on the Cochituate ball fields. Explains this is a safety issue. No demarcation between dugout and fans especially on field one. Swinging bats could hit players inadvertently. In addition, equipment is exposed in rain, dugouts would help protect belongings. Fields are heavily used in summer months and cover could provide shade. Wayland Little League is willing to provide formal request to DPW/Rec. Cost

estimate would need to be obtained. Rec. Commission believes Art King dugouts were funded by WBSA. Wayland Little League would like to hang banners to generate revenue, which would fund the dugouts. WLL is a non-profit organization so fundraising is needed. Zampese will check with WLL treasurer to verify funding for Art King. Formal proposal to be submitted, and may need to be worked into the capital plan given the expected expenditure because there are four dugouts at Cochituate. Would likely be bid out and not constructed by DPW. Procurement would depend on how much project costs.

K. Brenna: There is a sponsor interested in making a donation to do work at Cochituate.

Trevor Chisholm; father of Children's Way student. Voices support for the poured-in-place rubber material for playground renovations at Claypit Hill and Happy Hollow. Important because it is the only material that will work for all kids with any type of mobility issue. Promotes inclusion and will help kids in the future that have similar needs. State regulatory bodies and environmental agencies have no substantiated reports of any health issues with the poured-in-place material. Has become standard for all modern playgrounds. Would like to add structures that are more inclusive. Cork is unproven. Variations in surface make it unusable to those in wheelchairs.

Discussion regarding sub-surfaces being considered for playgrounds. Timeline for cork - will not be ready to be used in the US for the Claypit and Happy Hollow projects. No playgrounds in the US with cork yet. Have not been able to obtain any of the information from the vendor that is required to complete the application. Binding agent in both poured-in-place rubber and cork is the same; urethane. Town expressed that they did not want to be the first to use cork in the US. Shredded rubber is virgin, but cannot be used in fall zones, like poured-in-place and cork. Town made a commitment to use a unitary surface so all users have access to all parts of the playground. CPC funding is for full footprint of the playground. Town meeting warrant Article needs to have certain specifications that are acceptable by ADA and Mass. Architectural Access Board.

Erin Newton: Echoes same concern brought forth by Trevor Chisholm regarding playground surface. Son excluded from play at Claypit Hill. Needs to be more inclusive. Claypit playground was built in 1997 and has antiquated structures and needs to have access for all students to play inclusively with peers.

7:47 PM 5Y & 10Y CAPITAL PLAN FOR RECREATION PROJECTS

Discussion regarding the focus of 5Y & 10Y Capital Plan. Need two scenarios for 5Y plan based on outcome of Loker Field project at town meeting. Need to include playgrounds in 10Y and possibly the Cochituate dugouts. Capital plan begins at department level and would be requested to the town to be prioritized among other departments' requests. FinCom has a final say in what capital funds are spent. Regarding the Cochituate dugouts: Donations could potentially be accepted, but would need to be earmarked as part of the plan. Could use stabilization funds, which would require a town meeting vote. Cannot use field rental revenue. Could potentially use CPC funds.

Need to push out several projects to FY21. Each field/site has several line items, i.e.; design and construction, etc. Group smaller projects into one project each year over the course of 10 years. 5Y plan is more detailed and up-to-date than the 10Y plan. DPW indicated that Middle School is in need of rehab so that project might be considered earlier than others might. More discussion is needed about where to prioritize Rec projects.

K. Brenna discussed why HS Phase 3 and Loker Field are in same fiscal year. Loker would move to FY21 and Phase 3 of HS would get pushed to FY22. The two projects when proposed were to be considered interchangeable. Playgrounds in FY21 will use \$400k and therefore none in FY22. \$400k for playgrounds and \$3.4 for Loker in FY21. No playgrounds and rehabbing of existing fields in FY22. Playgrounds will go back on plan in FY23 at \$200k. If Loker passes, Rec. Commission has agreed not to pursue another turf field in the next five years. Focus would be on playgrounds and rehabbing of grass fields. Asa suggests preference should be to rehab Rec owned parcels, rather than school properties. Schwartz, Cochituate are possibilities. Old DPW site is potential if Loker doesn't pass.

8:03 PM Recess

K. Brenna leaves to attend Historical Commission meeting with Brud Wright.

8:10 PM Reconvene

8:10 PM TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF MEETING, IF ANY

Public comment by Phil Rosenfield: Discussion about Wayland Day. Phil would like to support event. Operates Reasons to Be Cheerful Ice Cream and would like to open a shop in Wayland. West Concord holds an event, Middlesex Jazz Festival. Sponsored by local businesses and brings community together. Phil operates a foundation in the name of his late son. Foundation could help fund a similar event in Wayland. Phil is willing to participate and help organize. He would offer the ice cream concession and bring a truck and a kiosk to event. David Pearlman will reach out to event planners in Concord for guidance and will get contact information about their board and try to attend the next meeting. They do not close streets, but do close parking lots. Art show as well. In Wayland, possible venues could be Middle School or Hannah Williams Park and Cochituate Ball Field. Use various parking lots nearby. West Concord rotary club sells beer. Sales go to one of the schools in town. David P. will coordinate with Phil to pull together the logistics of meeting with Concord board that oversees the event.

8:20 PM VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (FEBRUARY 25)

February 25 minutes not prepared. Table until next meeting.

8:25 PM - 5Y & 10Y CAPITAL PLAN FOR RECREATION PROJECTS

Brud Wright arrives and K. Brenna. returns from Historical Commission meeting.

Continued discussion regarding 5Y and 10Y plan.

Loker project at \$3.4 million to cover possible escalation. PMBC support \$3.4 million.

Anticipate similar bidding environment. Impact to taxpayers would not likely be \$3.4 million. No violation of FinCom guidelines by moving project to FY21.

If Loker passes at Town Meeting, 5Y plan could include the rehab of grass fields and possible dugouts at Cochituate. Field rehab would be prioritized with assistance from DPW after assessment of field conditions. Commission in agreement - need to be clear that focus is to get Loker passed and then keep large projects out of 5Y plan. If Loker passes, \$1 million Claypit project gets pushed further out. Claypit baseball project needs to be addressed but definitely not a \$1 million project. Must have a 5 year plan recommendation in place for FAQs if Loker passes. Commission to come up with ideas/suggestions by next meeting.

8:39 PM PLAYGROUND SURFACES, POSSIBLE VOTE

Discussion regarding playground surfaces for potential vote.

There are three acceptable surface choices: Artificial turf (rare), poured-in-place (most widely used), and rubber tiles. K. Brenna recommends poured-in-place based on research. Crumb rubber is contained - sometimes a shock pad is used underneath. No migration of any material beyond the playground. Off gassing would only last for 24 - 48 hours. Playground would be closed during this period. Any odors after this timeframe are inert and non-toxic after 48 hours.

Brud Wright makes a motion indicating the surface to be used for the Happy Hollow and Claypit Hill playgrounds will be poured-in-place crumb rubber. David Pearlman seconds VOTE: 5-0-0.

8:45 PM LOKER TURF FIELD PROJECT / OTHER ARTICLES THAT INVOLVE RECREATION

Official warrant has been sent to the printer. The Loker article is #23. Bulk of article is FinCom comments. FinCom deferred vote and will take position at town meeting. They are interested in outcome of ZBA hearings in case there are cost implications posed by ZBA and ConCom. Article slated to be the last article on Monday night, April 6. Playgrounds are on Sunday, April 5. CPC funded articles are all together on Sunday. On March 5, submitted third notice of intent to ConCom and DEP for necessary permits to build Loker field. Hearing scheduled for March 19, which is same night as League of Women voters. Should take no more than one meeting for ConCom to make a decision on application.

Historical commission update from Brud. Historical Commission expressed concerns about previous study. K. Brenna did a good job explaining Rec position on this issue. Some inaccurate implications have come out in the past, which have now been addressed. Hired consultant and their report clarified where to build at Loker. Gave info to Weston & Sampson. Need to stay within Historical purview and the field has been designed so it does not impact any areas of concern. Historical Commission will likely vote tonight. Support from Historical Commission should become public knowledge. Need to avoid anyone using inaccurate information at town meeting. Example: the switch/arbitrary slotting of HS phase 3 project. FAQs are up on wayland.ma.us website under Recreation Commission. Important to get endorsement from DPW. Slide deadline is nearing - should finalize soon. Need to have responses prepared and ready to go at town meeting con microphone to dispel misinformation. Rec Commission should prepare to speak comfortably about each question. National report on turf is not going to be ready before town meeting. K. Brenna asks commission to review FAQs as they have just been posted within last 24 hours. Make statement that there will be no other new footprint/ancillary projects if Loker passes. Vernal pool discussion. How did state declare it

a vernal pool? If there are not eggs and no water flow it would decertify as vernal pool. Conservation expert should assess the site rather than an opponent of the project. Even if it is a vernal pool, there are currently arrangements to accommodate it. Reroute trail away from vernal pond and plant new vegetation. The parking lot has been moved 4 feet away - further away from vernal pool. Order of conditions status discussed. Came up with draw vote so order of conditions never issued. One unreasonable condition discussed was talk of limiting lights during month of April when vernal pool would be active. Brud will speak at League of Women Voters on March 19. ConCom is @ 7:45 PM on same night. David Pearlman is available to attend.

Discuss strategy for town meeting. Consider any lingering issues and work with Katherine to prepare for town meeting.

9:25 PM CALENDAR – SCHEDULE NEXT RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Next March 30 @ 7:00 PM

9:30 PM ADJOURN

David moves to adjourn meeting, Chris Fay seconds. VOTE 5-0-0

DOCUMENT LIST: