

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

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**January 5, 2021 AT 2:00 PM**

Wayland Town Building | 41 Cochituate Road | Wayland MA 01778

Teleconference on Zoom and broadcast on [WayCam](#).

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<b>Remote participation by tele-videoconferencing:</b>	Commissioners: Asa B. Foster, Chair; Leanne D. Mason; David B. Pearlman; Kelly S. Pierce; Thruston 'Brud' Wright III, Chair;
<b>Also Present</b>	Recreation Director, Katherine Brenna
<b>Absent</b>	None.
<b>Guests</b>	Linda Hansen, Conservation Dept.

Note: In compliance with the March 12, 2020 Massachusetts Office of the Governors' Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, this meeting of the Recreation Commission was livestreamed on local broadcast on WayCAM and on Zoom. Public Comment was received by telephone during the designated time.

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**CALL TO ORDER. REVIEW AGENDA FOR PUBLIC**

At 2:03 pm, Chair, B. Wright called the meeting to order, reviewed the agenda for the public, and announced that the meeting would be broadcast live and recorded for later viewing by WayCAM. B. Wright announced each member would participate remotely via Zoom, by full name.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

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**COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

2:04 pm, K. Pierce identified as the Recreation Commission liaison to the Community Preservation Committee. CPC will meet on January 6, 2021 and there are 8 applications to review. One application that is relevant to the Recreation Department is the Mill Pond Dam project sponsored by Board of Public Works. The Mill Pond dam has deteriorated to a condition that makes it unsafe and should be replaced. DPW has asked for \$121,000 to rebuild and reconstruct the dam and walkway which connects to Bay Circuit Trail. K. Pierce will have more information about project at upcoming meeting on January 6, 2021. K. Brenna reported that, in the past, Recreation has sponsored ice skating and the annual fishing derby at Mill Pond. Recreation Department is supportive of the rehabilitation and renovation of the dam at Mill Pond. B. Wright requested information on ownership status of Mill Pond and other properties in Town. Suggested that topic be added to a future agenda. There was discussion about the possibility of making Mill Pond a functioning skating arena. DPW has faced some challenges including maintenance equipment falling through ice and the ability to test thickness of ice. There hasn't been enough cold weather in recent years to support safe skating on the pond. K. Pierce discussed an application by the Surface Water Quality Commission for the purchase of a weed harvester for Heard Pond, Dudley Pond and Lake Cochituate for \$128,000, which has been postponed for this year as due to cost and the ability for personnel to operate and maintain the harvester. A cost analysis from Surface Water Quality Committee would be useful and is expected in the future. L. Mason is working with K. Brenna to contact the State about the deed/lease for Wayland Town Beach. L. Mason reported that Wayland Youth Basketball is operating clinics at Longfellow in compliance with the Health Department guidelines. Youth Basketball hopes to use the Town Building Gym when it becomes available. School gyms cannot be used since they are operating as cafeteria space during COVID. They plan on using outdoor courts at WHS and Cochituate in the spring. B. Wright inquired about hoop height at Claypit and whether or not they are suitable for youth basketball in the future. The hoops at Claypit are between 8 or 9 feet high. K. Brenna reported that the hoops at Claypit are suitable for a Recreation based program.

## **CAPITAL PLAN AND FY 2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMNT PLAN RECOMMENDATION REVIEW**

2:24 pm, K. Brenna recapped the Recreation Commission's November 6, 2020 recommendations to the Town for a study to rehabilitate and renovate the Middle School field including the old DPW site and also the Loker Turf project. Recreation Commission request of \$150,000 was submitted to the Town, but in a memo dated December 6, 2020, the Town made a recommendation to the Finance Committee to reduce the Middle School project request to \$75,000. Although Recreation is the sponsor for the Loker project, the funds are included in the capital plan in a line item under the Facilities Department for FY22. There are items on the capital plan listed beyond FY22 that the Town has not recommended at this time for budget reasons. L. Mason requested clarification on the Finance Committee's recommendation to BOS and what went into the decision making process. Coordination between schools and recreation for project planning and maintenance was suggested.

K. Brenna reported that the Oxbow meeting will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Goal is to have field open and playable for spring 2021. Update will be provided on next Commission meeting agenda.

## **2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE DRAFTS - LOKER**

2:39 pm, K. Brenna reports on draft of Loker warrant article, which is similar to what was printed in last Annual Town Meeting warrant. Some updates to article that are different than last year. Updated on what has been expended to date and different contribution sources. The full \$188,816 from stabilization fund to be transferred for project.

Permits have still not been decided. Plan to reopen ZBA permit for scheduled February 9, 2021 hearing for a special lighting permit. There are two Conservation Commission permits outstanding – will restart at end of January, 2021. The draft includes these new dates. Town's Project Manager, Steve Vitello, has taken custody of project.

B. Wright asked about the role of PMBC in the Project. K. Brenna reported that design and cost will be their priority. Design hasn't changed since February 2019 when it was completed, two permits are outstanding, but will be received before Town Meeting. Project will be rebid before town meeting. A. Foster recommended to notify public of changes at Town Meeting with slide demonstration and written information.

K. Pierce inquires about the Historical commission memo addressing areas of concern. Public will ask questions.

K. Brenna reported that she has regular communication with Chair of Historical Commission to update her on project. Informed Chair via email that Recreation Commission would vote on submission of the Loker Article at today's meeting. Also, Loker project could potentially be added to an upcoming Historical Commission meeting. In 2013 Rec commission paid \$18,000 to study the whole parcel of land and identified areas to avoid and built entire project around these areas. Message from the Historical Commission indicated that there may be other areas that should be avoided that were not disclosed at that time.

A. Foster indicated that an overlay of 2013 proposal and current proposal show that the project is well within current area of study.

B. Wright suggests it might be appropriate for Dave Watkins, Recreation Commission Liaison, to reach out to Historical Commission to be proactive with any questions and concerns before Town Meeting.

A. Foster discussed the Planning Board and letter from Dan Hill should be addressed before Town Meeting.

B. Wright proposed that Planning Board be reminded that the letter was not properly approved and for them to focus on which documents should be submitted to ZBA. All issues have been addressed and resolved with Selectmen by their LSP. All questions were addressed and voted on by Selectmen.

A. Foster asked that new proposal should be submitted to ZBA so all current members are able to participate in vote.

K. Brenna explained the application process.

B. Wright commented that no correspondence should be introduced by any individual on behalf of a board.

K. Brenna explained the sections of the draft Loker Article and what needs to be voted on by Commission at this meeting. Proposer's Comments Discussion is identical to previous Loker Article, but a link to FAQ's has been added. Arguments for and against article are included here and are standard pieces of a warrant article.

L. Mason suggested a change be made in proposer's comments to focus on the project's fiscal responsibility.

A. Foster informs Recreation Commission that DPW is willing to provide statement indicating that cost of turf maintenance is substantially less than grass.

Commission discussed grammatical changes to article.

B. Wright proposed to incorporate wording to indicate that if the parcel is left as it is now, it would be a huge expenditure, which the town has already incurred, having purchased the property for \$1.7 million. The property has remained vacant for over 20 years and has yet to provide any benefit to residents. Town intended to use parcel for recreation purposes.

Commission agreed it would be helpful to have support from town constituents and users.

A. Foster made a motion to move forward with the proposed warrant article as amended and presented. Seconded by K. Pierce.

Roll Call Vote: YEA: L. Mason, B. Wright, D. Pearlman, A. Foster, K. Pierce. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: none. Vote: Approved 5-0-0.

### **GREENWAYS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN FROM MASS AUDUBON**

3:24 pm, L. Hansen reported on Greenways Land Management open space plan. Recommendation is to look at property as a whole and not fragmented parcel. Recreation parcel is landlocked within conservation area. Asked for input, review and comments from Recreation Commission. Suggested potential land swap with North Woods.

D. Pearlman discussed that the land is often used for off-leash dog walking.

L. Hansen commented that it's difficult to enforce leash use, which is important since there are federally endangered species in this area. Areas of property should be marked for leashed and off-leash use.

L. Mason questioned which properties in report are Recreation properties.

L. Hansen identified the Recreation parcel at Greenways.

There was discussion about proposed soccer field at North Woods. Parcel is land locked, surrounded by conservation land, which precludes Recreation from using the property as a soccer field. An easement to access Recreation parcel is not likely an option under Chapter 21.

L. Hansen reports that there is an area of riverfront with a canoe landing that could be used for recreational purposes. There is potential for active recreation use for purposes other than a soccer field.

K. Pierce discussed Charena Farms area and a potential access point via a parcel of land for sale at end of cul-de-sac that leads to the Green Ways property.

L. Hansen provided more history on the parcel and stressed the need for a management plan.

The Recreation Commission agreed to explore options and ideas for the potential use of this property.

### **FY 2022 REVOLVING FUND BUDGETS AND SPENDING CAPS**

3:59PM K. Brenna reported that each year the Recreation Commission must vote on a spending cap for the Recreation Revolving Fund as required by state law. A motion was made by A. Foster and seconded by L. Mason that the Recreation Commission vote to submit for approval by Annual Town Meeting, the following maximum expenditures from each revolving fund subject to the limitation established annually by Annual Town Meeting pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44 Section 53-E 1/2

FY 2022 Recreation Revolving Fund	\$900,000
FY 2022 Recreation Field Revolving Fund	\$250,000

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: YEA: L. Mason, B. Wright, D. Pearlman, A. Foster, K. Pierce. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: none. Vote: Approved 5-0-0.

## **RECREATION FACILITIES UPDATE**

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2:04 pm, B. Wright reported that Claypit Fields 5 and 6 were renovated simultaneously. There is no irrigation at this site so water had to be brought in. Project will be finished by end of Spring 2021 and possibly used late spring, but recommendation by DPW is to keep fields offline as long as possible. The long-term plan for Claypit, along with DPW recommendation, is to install irrigation which could be up to \$104,000 or more to phase in a central station with town water to branch off and feed all the fields at Claypit. DPW will water until the grass is established. Discussed the potential design, rehabilitation and installation of irrigation at Claypit. Funds would be requested in next fiscal year. Need clarification from DPW about watering through summer months so that field is playable in the fall of 2021.

## **MINUTES: VOTE TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF (November 6, 2020)**

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4:04 pm, L. Mason moved, seconded by A. Foster to accept the minutes of November 6, 2020.

Discussion: None.

Roll Call Vote: YEA: K. Pierce, D. Pearlman, B. Wright, L. Mason, A. Foster

NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. Vote: Approved 5-0-0

## **TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF MEETING, IF ANY**

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There were none.

## **ADJOURN**

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At, 4:14 pm, there being no further business before the Recreation Commission L. Mason moved, seconded by K. Pierce, to adjourn the meeting of the Recreation Commission; Discussion: None; Roll Call Vote: YEA: K. Pierce, D. Pearlman, A. Foster, L. Mason, B. Wright. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None Vote: Approved 5-0-0.

## **DOCUMENTS**

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- 1) Jan 5, 2021 Agenda
- 2) Memo from CPC
- 3) CIP: Recreation request 11/6
- 4) CIP: Town Recommendation 12/6
- 5) Memo from BOS re: ATM
- 6) Warrant Opening Notice
- 7) 2021 ATM Loker Turf Construction – Warrant Article Draft
- 8) FinCom Slide Deck on Loker Turf
- 9) Field User Packet with Playability Guidelines
- 10) Memo to Rec from M. Upton
- 11) 2021 Winter Brochure
- 12) Greenways Land Management Plan (Conservation)
- 13) Draft of Recreation Commission Minutes from November 6, 2020