

**TOWN OF WAYLAND
RECREATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

REMOTE

**Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.
Wayland Town Building/Zoom
41 Cochituate Road, Wayland, MA 01778**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting was conducted via remote participation. No in person attendance by members of the public was permitted. This meeting was recorded and made available to the public on WayCAM.tv as soon after the meeting as was practicable.

Present via remote participation: Asa B. Foster, Leanne D. Mason, David B. Pearlman, Kelly S. Pierce, Thruston "Brud" Wright III

Also present: Katherine Brenna, Recreation Director

Call to order: At 7:32 p.m., A. Foster called the meeting to order when a quorum was present and announced each member who was present and participating remotely by full name. He announced the meeting would be held remotely via zoom, and a recording would be made available on WayCAM.tv as soon after the meeting as is practicable.

Review the agenda for the public: A. Foster announced that pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, the meeting would be conducted via remote participation. No in person attendance by members of the public will be permitted. A. Foster reviewed the agenda for the public. K. Pierce arrived at 7:34 p.m.

Minutes: Review and vote approval of meeting minutes: 10/25/2021: K. Pierce moved, seconded by D. Pearlman, to accept the draft minutes from October 25, 2021 as written. Roll Call Vote: YEA: A. Foster, D. Pearlman, K. Pierce, B. Wright. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: L. Mason. Approved: 4-0-0.

Fields Discussion V: Discuss any topics that may need consultation with DPW/ BoPW: A. Foster said that Joe Doucette, DPW Superintendent was going to provide the Commission with a spreadsheet of all fields and the respective maintenance plans. A. Foster wanted the Commission to have this spreadsheet before it discussed further field maintenance. B. Wright said he spoke with Mike Lowery of the Board of Public Works and said he was confused on future maintenance of fields. Mainly, B. Wright could not decipher if future maintenance plans involved discussion of general landscape maintenance, or larger capital projects, such as building a parking lot. B. Wright wanted to make it clear that the Commission and Recreation

Department are the only ones who should be involved with programming and capital improvements. K. Pierce commented and said her understanding of the proposed field plans was more of a "wish list" and not maintenance, which was inappropriate. A. Foster thinks the primary goal should be to finalize the Loker Field project before moving onto other field improvements. B. Wright and D. Pearlman agreed.

2022 Annual Town Meeting topics: K. Brenna said that if the Commission's focus was to finalize Loker, they will need to; co-sponsor a warrant article with the BoS, request that the BoS consider a debt exclusion (via a ballot question), and submit the Revolving Fund spending cap for FY2023 to include any contributions from Recreation. K. Pierce asked what the design budget was for Loker. K. Brenna said that they will receive bids in early May, and that the suggested article has a place holder budget of 2.5 million for construction.

B. Wright asked about the status of the feasibility study for a D.P.W. site, and what the anticipated article for Town Meeting will look like. K. Brenna said that project was approved at the 2022 Special Town Meeting in October, and that Loker was prioritized. She said a feasibility study was slated to begin in spring 2022. B. Wright expressed that he wants the D.P.W. design to be voted on at the 2022 Town Meeting, and the feasibility study completed earlier. K. Pierce said that the CPC funding of \$50,000 for this project has a time limit of 18 months. K. Brenna said a lot of Town resources are needed (not just a contractor) in order to complete this project and that it is planned for FY2024. K. Pierce brought up that the Commission must notify D.P.W. of major projects so that they may staff accordingly. A. Foster said all field projects should be built with sod going forward, not seed. B. Wright agreed and said it would be easier to maintain the goalmouths.

2022 Annual Town Meeting topics: Discuss and potential vote to approve and submit Revolving Fund Spending Caps for FY2023:

L. Mason joined the meeting at 8:08PM. K. Pierce moved, seconded by B. Wright, that the Commission vote maximum expenditures for each Revolving Fund subject to limitations established annually at Town Meeting pursuant to the provisions of Mass. General Law Chapter 44 Section 53-E1/2: FY2023 Recreation Revolving Fund maximum expenditure of \$900,000 and FY2023 Recreation Field Revolving Fund maximum expenditure of \$400,000. Roll Call Vote: YEA: A. Foster, D. Pearlman, K. Pierce, B. Wright. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: L. Mason. ABSENT: None. Approved: 4-0-1.

2022 Annual Town Meeting topics: Discuss and potential vote to co-sponsor Warrant

Article: Loker Recreation Grass Field: K. Pierce questioned whether a vote on this article would mean an additional estimated \$400,000 from Recreation Revolving Funds on top of an allocated \$118,000 from the CPA. K. Brenna said half of the \$400,000 is through the Recreation Stabilization fund, to be voted on at Town Meeting and the other half is from the Recreational Field Revolving Fund, which is voted on by the Commission. A. Foster proposed the language of

the article be amended to "possible transfer of no more than \$200,000 from Recreation Field Revolving Fund". The Commission agreed.

K. Pierce moved, seconded by D. Pearlman, to support and submit the Loker Recreation Grass Field Article for an estimated cost of \$2.5 million for 2022 Annual Town Meeting. D. Pearlman seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: YEA: A. Foster, L. Mason, D. Pearlman, K. Pierce, B. Wright. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. Approved: 5-0-0.

2022 Annual Town Meeting topics: Discuss and potential vote to request that the BoS consider a debt exclusion: D. Pearlman moved, seconded by K. Pierce, to request that the Board of Selectmen consider putting a proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion question on the May 2022 Town Election ballot in regard to funding the "Loker Grass Field" Project. Roll Call Vote: YEA: A. Foster, L. Mason, D. Pearlman, K. Pierce, B. Wright. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. Approved: 5-0-0.

Recreation Department update: Q2: October, November, December 2021: K. Brenna reviewed the Q2 Department Update in the packet, including an update on the Town Beach, Ski Program, fall programming and the playground projects. K. Brenna reviewed a recent memo to from the Dudley Pond Association regarding Mansion Beach. Fall session program numbers were high and resembled pre-pandemic enrollment. Winter programs have begun and have had minor delays due to COVID surge. The ski and pickle ball programs have been well attended. Camp registration will open on 2/28/2022. The hiring process for camps has begun.

The Happy Hollow playground project is complete. Claypit Hill playground has been delayed until spring due to temperature. K. Brenna said she is asking schools not to remove snow from the playgrounds and is discouraging playground use during winter for safety reasons. K. Brenna applied for and the Town subsequently received a \$4,500 grant from the Arthur Ashley William's Foundation to make improvements to the Hannah William's playground. The grant will be used for a new bucket swing and story walks and community events in collaboration with the Library.

K. Pierce inquired about the CPC funding of \$80,000 to make the Oxbow Trail ADA compliant. She also inquired about the Oxbow field drainage. K. Brenna said the project was taken over by the Town Administrator's office and that some details are being discussed in Executive Session. However, she believes the \$80,000 is being allocated to fund both issues that K. Pierce mentioned. K. Brenna will have an update on Oxbow before the next meeting. B. Wright asked if the \$80,000 is for two paths to connect conservation trails. K. Brenna replied no and said the project had nothing to do with Recreation Funds. Irrigation has been shut off for the field due to vandalism.

K. Brenna said the Town Beach closed in July due to an algae bloom. The lake later reached safe levels by November and 'no swimming' warning signage was removed. K. Brenna said conversations with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Friends of Lake Cochituate have begun to discuss ways to prevent this from happening again. K. Brenna noted the algae bloom itself is not the danger, but rather a possibility that the algae bloom can release toxins. The department is planning to re-open Memorial Day weekend and lifeguards are actively being recruited.

K. Brenna reminded the Commission of when Tom Klem (Chair of the Surface Water Quality Committee) spoke last meeting about his concerns with geese droppings at Mansion Beach. K. Brenna received a letter from Tom Dreher (Dudley Pond Association) expressing more general concerns about the maintenance of the mansion beach. T. Dreher wrote about issues with tape grass removal equipment causing ruts in the beach. K. Brenna subsequently released a memo regarding goose control measures and noted that Mansion Beach is not permitted as a "public bathing beach", as such there is no Recreation funding for it, and the Mansion Beach area is not in fact Recreation property

Commission Reports & Announcements: L. Mason mentioned correspondence from resident J. Mohnkern regarding the removal of storage containers across the street from Alpine Field. K. Brenna mentioned that this was recently a topic with the Board of Public Works because they had interest in putting a parking lot in there. A. Foster said there was no longer any plan for a parking lot project. A. Foster said he thinks the public would rather see a larger scale project take place at Alpine, than a more piecemeal approach. K. Brenna said Alpine was one of many potential sites proposed for a third site for development, per the 2022 Special Town Meeting Article 4. B. Wright said it is important for the Commission to consider a place for youth sports to store its equipment should the containers be removed.

B. Wright mentioned reports of car tracks on Oxbow Field and requested that the gate be locked. K. Brenna work with DPW and have the gate locked. K. Brenna said that vandalism is not uncommon on recreation sites. B. Wright suggested something be mentioned at Town Meeting regarding vandalism. D. Pearlman suggested signage/cameras at Town Beach to help decrease vandalism to bathrooms. D. Pearlman asked K. Brenna if she had a list of vandalism events that took place over the last year. A. Foster suggested they bring said list before Town Meeting. L. Mason said they should consider cameras at every property that would need them. K. Brenna noted an important distinction between security cameras and general surveillance.

Next meeting date and agenda items:

Both K. Pierce and L. Mason said they felt the Commission should have been included more in the CPC funding of Oxbow and the Board of Selectmen's process. A. Foster suggested that the Commission not meet on Monday nights so they could have access to the BoS liaison, Dave Watkins and that not being in sync with the BoS makes the Commission look unformed to the

public. B. Wright said he was displeased by the BoS's process regarding the former DPW site. Both K. Pierce and B. Wright said the Commission should have more control over its agenda.

D. Pearlman asked if there was a way to expedite the DPW site project. K. Brenna said the warrant articles are due 1/18/2022, but the Commission could do a petitioner's article if necessary. B. Wright asked the Commission's opinion on delaying the project until FY2024. All Commissioners responded by saying they were frustrated and did not want to delay the project. B. Wright requested the Commission seek a design article for the former DPW site at 2022 Town Meeting. L. Mason offered to compose a memo inquiring about the status of projects. K. Brenna said the BoS may not have the resources to focus on the project right now. K. Pierce questioned why the \$50,000 for the back middle school field was allocated a year ago and will start in spring of 2022. She also wants a report on the status of the \$50,000 former DPW site feasibility study, the \$50,000 for the Loker Field project, and the status of the Oxbow trail project.

The Commission agreed to hold the next meeting on February 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. and requested an update on previously approved funds for: the Middle School Back Field Design, the feasibility study for the Old DPW Site, the Loker Grass Field Design and the Oxbow Project and Settlement. L. Mason said one of the agenda items for a next meeting will be communication with the Board of Selectmen.

Public Comment, for items not on the agenda: Clifford Lewis, 33 Claypit Hill Road, joined via video-conference. C. Lewis said there are three disconnects preventing the Commission from making better fields: first, the Commission needs to distinguish between capital and maintenance, and that DPW hands were tied unless it has a capital project; second, the Board of Public Works wants better fields and it has no ulterior motives; third, the Commission needs a better way to deal with projects by working together with other boards.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair 48 hours in advance of meeting, if any:

K. Pierce asked the status of the part time position in the Recreation Department. K. Brenna said it has been vacant for two years. The job was going to be posted, but then COVID hit and departmental workload dropped. However, the need for this position has resurfaced as the building is open again, and the department is returned to pre-pandemic levels of services.

Adjourn: At 9:43 p.m., there being no further business before the Recreation Commission, L. Mason moved, seconded by K. Pierce, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote: YEA: A. Foster, L. Mason, D. Pearlman, K. Pierce, B. Wright. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None. Approved: 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
K. McLaughlin

Documents referred to during the Recreation Commission Meeting of January 10, 2022

- Agenda 01/10/2022
- Recreation Commission Draft Minutes of October 25, 2021
- Draft Warrant Article Request Form: Loker Recreation Field (Grass)
- Memorandum: TO: Board of Selectmen CC: Town Administrator/Selectmen's Office, Recreation Commission, Recreation Director, K. Brenna, Facilities Director, B. Keefe, Project Manager, Steve Vitello RE: Request for Debt Exclusion Ballot Question re: Prop 2 ½ FROM: Asa Foster, Recreation Commission Chair, dated Monday, January 10, 2021
- Q2 Recreation Department Update with photos
- Letter to K. Brenna from Dudley Pond Association (DPA), Tim Dreher, dated December 17, 2021
- Email to K. Brenna from J. Mohnkern, dated December 17, 2021 re: Storage containers at Alpine Field
- Letter: From C. Buttner, President, Arthur Ashley Williams Foundation, re: grant award in the amount of \$4,500 for the use at Hannah Williams Playground
- Draft: Motion re: Expenditure Limits (Spending Caps) for Recreation Revolving Accounts