

TOWN OF WAYLAND

Massachusetts

Recreation Department

Town Building
41 Cochituate Road
Wayland, Massachusetts 01778
(508) 358-3660
www.wayland.ma.us



Recreation Commission

Asa B. Foster
Mark Norton
David B. Pearlman
Kelly S. Pierce
Thruston Wright III

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 8, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Wayland Town Building, Council on Aging Room
41 Cochituate Road, Wayland, Massachusetts 01778

Present: Asa B. Foster, Mark Norton, David B. Pearlman, Kelly S. Pierce, Thruston "Brud" Wright III.

Absent: None.

Personnel Present: Recreation Director, K. Brenna

Call to Order and Review the Agenda: At 7:36 p.m., Co-Chair Brud Wright called the meeting to order and each member announced his/her/their full name, B. Wright noted that the meeting would be recorded for later broadcast. D. Pearlman arrived at 7:45 p.m. B. Wright welcomed M. Norton and thanked L. Mason for her service on the Recreation Commission.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Minutes: Review and approve previous meeting minutes: April 10, 2023: K. Pierce suggested an amendment to the minutes. K. Pierce moved, seconded by D. Pearlman, to accept the minutes of April 10, 2023, as amended. Vote: YEA: A. Foster, D. Pearlman, K. Pierce, B. Wright. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: M. Norton. ABSENT: None. Adopted: 4-0-1.

Annual Organizational Meeting: a. Vote to designate Chair b. Set a schedule for regular meetings c. FY 2023 Annual Report due September 30, 2023 d. Goals FY 2024:

The Commission discussed the role of chair. B. Wright nominated, seconded by M. Norton, to elect A. Foster and D. Pearlman to serve as co-chairs. Vote: YEA: A. Foster, D. Pearlman, K. Pierce, B. Wright. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: L. Mason. ABSENT: None. Adopted: 4-0-1.

D. Pearlman assumed the role of co-chair. The Commission discussed and drafted a meeting schedule. K. Brenna reminded the Commission that it would need to meet before the Annual Report was due.

Scott Walters, Draper Road, asked the Commission if meetings were required to be in person. K. Brenna answered that the state recently extended the provision to allow remote, hybrid and in-person meetings until 2025. The Board discussed meeting remotely.

K. Brenna reviewed that the FY 2024 goals were listed in the packet, and requested the Board choose three for which to focus. The Board discussed the priorities, including Loker grass field and the Middle School fields.

S. Walters, Draper Road, asked the about the Middle School project goals. The Board described the planned design work.

Discuss adding Sports lighting to Art King Little League Field and Schwartz Little League Field:

Steve Schamberg, Decatur Lane, asked about adding sports lights to baseball fields to help with coming offline.

Greg Deranian, Amey Road, suggested sports lighting be added to the Art King Field. There was a discussion about request and the challenges presented by the installation of sports lighting at Art King and Eric Schwartz youth baseball fields. There was a discussion about potential limits imposed by the Conservation Commission on sports lighting in wetlands areas.

The Commission and members of the audience then had a round-table discussion on the potentials objections from neighbors and suggested alternative locations for lights. S. Schamberg noted that permission from neighbors was not required. B. Wright answered that abutter notification was part of the Zoning Board of Appeals process to issue a special permit for illumination. A. Foster noted that the field was currently only used by Little League.

S. Schamberg emphasized the field shortage with an example where in recent days the WHS Varsity Softball field was too wet to play which then displaced two Little League games scheduled at Cochituate Ball Fields. He noted adding sports lighting to the WHS Varsity Softball field would have alleviated the conflict for Little League.

G. Deranian asked if the WHS Softball field was under the School Department's jurisdiction, B. Wright confirmed that the field was on school property and suggested G. Deranian bring the matter to the Schools Athletics Department.

S. Walters, Draper Road, commented that the aforementioned challenges to get the special permit for lighting at the Loker Field, was due to abutters who opposed artificial turf, not necessarily the sports lighting.

D. Pearlman, called on J. Polizzotti, Indian Road who agreed with the suggestion of adding sports lights to the grass fields.

Steve Schamberg expressed that he did not anticipate objections to sports lighting at Art King and described problems with cell phone towers in Wayland.

M. Norton asked if it was the perspective of the Commission to determine the most cost-effective way to maximize usage of the fields and then collaborate with the groups like Conservation, Zoning and abutters. B. Wright noted that all the interests were important, not just the active recreational sports groups.

S. Schamberg pointed to some of the existing field conflicts at the Middle School were due to a shortage of grass fields. S. Schamberg stated that he believed that over time year-round private clubs sports organizations would supplant public school athletic systems. The group generally expressed disagreement. B. requested Little League provide the Commission with an enumeration of their field needs.

Joseph Polizzotti, Indian Road, described the advancements in sports lighting technology.

The Board discussed the process for getting approval for sports lighting permits as well as Annual Town Meeting approval to fund it.

Discuss Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at fields OR what the plan is if an AED device will not be stationed at any particular Recreation field or gym:

D. Pearlman reviewed that there was recent interest in installing Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at Cochituate Ball Fields.

S. Walters, Draper Road, noted the life-saving benefits of having an AED readily available.

K. Brenna reported that recently state law passed mandating AEDs in school buildings, the school buildings have AEDs but the schools are not always open when the outdoor fields are being use. K. Brenna noted there is also draft legislation intending to require AEDs on athletic playing fields, which was expected to be a funded mandate. K. Brenna noted that Cochituate Ball Fields were 528 feet from Fire Station #2, whereas Alpine and Oxbow fields are furthest from EMS. B. Wright noted that this was a function of Public Safety. K. Brenna described the types of outdoor lock boxes to hold AEDs.

S. Walters, Draper Road, commented on the mandate for AEDs in school buildings.

G. Deranian shared a story at a baseball field in Belmont where a player had a heart event and died. G. Deranian noted that if an AED had been on site the man would have lived, he recommended that an AED be placed at Cochituate Ball Parks.

B. Wright recommended that G. Deranian bring the matter to the Town Manager or the Public Safety Departments through Select Board to ensure the proper procedures are followed. K. Brenna reported that she and the Fire and Police chiefs were discussing the request. B. Wright expressed concern for vandalism. D. Pearlman emphasized the urgency to place the AEDs now. The Commission was supportive of the initiative.

Discuss old DPW Site and possibilities of private & public/private investment for an indoor site: D.

Pearlman stated that installing a grass field would be problematic at the site (197-205 Main Street). K. Brenna noted that preliminary feasibility studies were completed, but the Select Board and/or Board of Public Works would have to decide that, as the property owners. D. Pearlman described potential business models for developing the property as an indoor multipurpose sports facility, similar to a facility in Wellesley.

J. Polizzotti noted that if the project would have to adhere to prevailing wage laws it would be significantly more expensive, which Brud confirmed it did. D. Pearlman suggested a subcommittee be established so the matter could be brought to Annual Town Meeting. B. Wright recommended the matter be brought to the Town Manager and the Select Board.

There was a round-table discussion about the concept of a private-public partnership to establish an indoor sports facility at the Old DPW site.

Commissioner Reports & Announcements, if any:

- a. **From Community Preservation Committee, K. Pierce, (CPA Funds):** K. Pierce updated the Commission on two warrant articles related to Recreation that passed at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. The warrant articles appropriated CPA Funds to renovate the Cochituate Ball Park basketball court and the entry way at Town Beach.
- b. **From Permanent Municipal Building Committee, B. Wright and A. Foster (Loker):** K. Brenna provided an update on the Loker Field project, the tree clearing was complete, the electrical posts and lighting system was expected to be installed that week. K. Brenna noted that the field could be used as early as fall 2023 with the installation of sod, which would go before the PMBC. The Commission discussed the condition of the sod at Oxbow Meadows field. S. Walters suggested the Town issue a press release on the project.
- c. **From Route 20 South Landfill Visioning Committee, D. Pearlman, if any:** D. Pearlman noted the committee would reconvene soon.

Recreation Director Department Update: K. Brenna provided the Commission with an update on the seasonal staff hiring, a new field hockey program and a beach promotion that would be mailed. The Commission discussed town-wide events like Touch-A-Truck event, and the Campout event. S. Walters suggested a weekend in June.

Next Meeting Date and suggested agenda items:

The Commission decided to meet on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of meeting, if any: D. Pearlman acknowledged the Eliza North Foundation for its recent donation to the Select Board to improve the existing dugouts at Cochituate Ball Fields.

Adjourn:

At 8:56 p.m., M. Norton moved, seconded by K. Pierce, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: YEA: A. Foster, M. Norton, D. Pearlman, K. Pierce and B. Wright. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Adopted: 5-0-0.

Documents referenced or reviewed by the Recreation Commission at the meeting of May 8, 2023:

1. Draft: Recreation Commission meeting minutes of April 10, 2023
2. Draft: Compiled submittals for goals exercise
3. Email: Little League proposal and donation for AED installation at Cochituate Ball Fields with attached photo of AED cabinet installed at the Carrol School.