

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 15, 2019, 7:00 AM  
WESTON COMMUNITY CENTER  
20 ALPHABET LN., WESTON, MA 02493**

*Members Present: Trevor MacDonald, Kristin Barbieri, Michael McGrath, Ben Polimer, Christopher Fitzgerald, Charlie Hipwood, Mark Ferris, Michelle Callanan*

*Members absent: Peter Foley, John Power, Alex Cobb, Melissa Crocker*

*Guests: Katarina Wilkins*

The meeting commenced at 7:03 AM

**Public Comments** – Katarina Wilkins announced that the Sustainable Weston Action Group (SWAG) is leading an effort for the Second Annual Weston Town Cleanup on April 21-27, 2019. She shared details of the event and invited the groups represented from all present to encourage their constituents to take part.

#### **Minutes**

The Minutes from the January 25, 2019 and February 13, 2019 meetings were reviewed and approved.

#### **Recreation Master Plan Update**

Initial results of a survey released in February were discussed. The survey garnered 238 responses, which – according to the consultants – is consistent with other towns and other surveys.

Among the discussion was:

- The survey seemed too long
  - This may have affected the number and quality of responses
- There were no written surveys available which could reduce the likelihood of some segments of the population to participate
- The number of responses – though typical from the consultant point of view – may not be typical of Weston, given that more than 400 responded to the Open Space and Recreation Plan survey a couple of years ago
- What has the consultants gathered from the survey thus far?

With the data being so new, there was a sense among the Committee that more analysis was needed from the consultant and an idea of what direction they see this project headed before having another public input meeting. There is a sense that a follow-up survey is warranted, but it should be shorter and help pull out more usable and definitive data. Mr. Polimer and Mr. Fitzgerald were to set up a conference call with the lead consultants to include Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Cobb to get some clarity

and provide a better sense of direction and what is being expected. The RMPSC also requested that the consultants attend a future RMPSC meeting to share more information and direction before hosting a public input session.

#### **CPC Funding Request**

The CPC had inquired about the RMPSC interest in obtaining the additional \$10,000 in CPC funds that were originally applied for in September but left unfunded, with a request to return closer to the end of the Fiscal Year. They requested that a representative attend the CPC public hearing on Monday, March 25. Ms. Callanan volunteered to attend on behalf of the RMPSC.

#### **Field and Grounds Update**

Mr. Polimer gave a report on Field and Grounds activities since last meeting. The report is included in the attachment.

## Attachment 1: Field and Grounds Report.

### Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- School grounds crew about 90% through winter equipment maintenance. They will perform maintenance on over 20 pieces of equipment.
- Winter projects list is expansive for school grounds crew. Highlights are removing brush and dead trees next to field #1 and field #2 at the HS, other misc. tree/brush removals, mounted trailer accessories on landscape trailer, revitalized tractor mounted aerator with new tines and grease, getting recreation mower back in service, rock wall work, installed new large trash can at HS tennis courts, added traffic signs around both campuses, and brush cut field surrounds, etc.
- Working with Recreation department on trying to diagnose a problem with an old mower. Mower has been abandoned for approx. 5 years. Mower is apart, working to put engine back together.
- Spring bids were sent out and received back. Bids for lawncare applications, sports turf applications, and sports turf core aeration. All are lined up and ready for work through July 1, 2019.
- School grounds continue to move equipment/ setups for custodial staff, IT Department, Music Department, Food Service Department, waste water treatment plant, WAIC construction, CH construction. Will continue regular moves for the district.
- School grounds had snow removal events on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 3-4. With snow removal that includes repairing equipment. That includes 6 snow blowers, skid steer, 2 trucks, 4 plow cutting edges, 2 snow foils. Equipment is washed after every deicing/plowing event.
- Hydraulic failure on our skid steer. Repair work is ongoing with in house staff.
- School Grounds Head Groundskeeper attended 1 day seminar in CT on new diesel engine technology to better diagnose our diesel equipment.
- MS Parking lot trees pruned on February 21- 22 by a contractor.
- Continuing working with School Committee and vendor on new Case Campus buildings and wayfinding signs. Signs have been delivered, waiting on thawing ground to remove old signs and install new.
- Resurfacing HS Tennis courts will be rebid in the spring and resurfaced after July 1, 2019.
- Participated in my NESTMA Board of Directors monthly meeting.
- Attended New England Regional Turfgrass Conference on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Providence. Head Groundskeeper for schools attended one day for equipment tech sessions and trade show.
- Participated in a webinar on February 20<sup>th</sup> on water movement in soils.
- Meet with FS parent on the possible locations of Arbor Day tree planting on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- Coordinate street light outages at campuses with DPW and contractor.
- Proctor Field, Pastor Park, Field #6 Irrigation project is out to bid. Site walk on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Bids opened March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- School Grounds crew participated in a webinar on tick safety on February 13<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Continue planning April Vacation projects, Woodland School Playground work, Country School Garden Cleanup, Middle School Lawn Repair.
- Case Campus and HS/MS Complex electric lines will be pruned in the next 4 weeks, via Eversource. Will work with contractor.
- Started working on department 20 year tree and site evaluations for all outdoor town facilities.
- Working with HS faculty member on improving Disc Golf course at the HS and MS.
- Started working on summer job posting for grounds crew.

- School Grounds crew has participated in 3 safety training session since January 1, 2019. Snow plow safety training video, and 2 of the 3-part series on ticks from UMASS. Regular monthly training sessions are scheduled for the year.