

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021, 7:00 AM**

Pursuant to Gov. Baker's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 modifying the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee, to ensure the safety of all participants, held its meeting remotely via Zoom: MEETING LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84298360373>, Meeting ID: 842 9836 0373.

*Members present: Trevor MacDonald, Alex Cobb, Mark Ferris, Melissa Crocker, Charlie Hipwood, Shirley Small-Rougeau, Ben Polimer, Mike McGrath, Christopher Fitzgerald, Pete Foley*

*Members absent: Pam Martin*

*Guest: Sapna Krishnan*

The meeting began at 7:00 AM.

**Resident Comments:** None

**Minutes:** The minutes from the February 26 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Potential RMPSC Candidate – Sapna Krishna**

Ms. Krishna introduced herself and her interest in joining the RMPSC. Ms. Krishnan has children who take part in Red Waves, Summer Camps and other Recreation Programs and her family uses Memorial Pool on a regular basis. She has a strong background in capital planning and project management, is familiar with the Master Plan and is interested in working with the Committee to help the plan come to fruition.

Other members of the Committee had either met or spoken with with Ms. Krishnan prior to the meeting and were supportive.

**Pickleball Courts**

Ms. Crocker advocated for beginning to pursue pickleball courts in town. She advocated for finding a short term solution to meet the growing demand for pickleball while we search for a more permanent solution, such as painting more pickleball courts on more tennis courts.

A discussion took place about locations for pickleball court, noting that three options were suggested in the Master Plan but each locations has their advantages and challenges. Mr. Cobb noted that a temporary solution wasn't within the purvue of this Committee but it can begin exploring possible sites for courts, and may want to consider acquiring funds for feasibility studies in the near future for this.

## **Town Meeting Update**

### **Warrant Article – School Committee Series of Feasibility Studies.**

Mr. Cobb summarized the warrant article discussing a series of feasibility studies involving the Middle School and High School complex, aspects of which are tied to the Recreation Master Plan, including:

- Renovations of the High School gym, locker rooms, Middle School pool, gym and locker rooms; and creating a driveway loop behind the middle school to enhance accessibility to fields 7, 8, 9 and 10 under “Level Service” items.
- Location, sizing and massing of a new larger pool with separate diving well under “Discretionary Enhancement” items.

Analysis of all items would take into consideration limitations posed by the capacity of existing wastewater treatment plant among other things and long term maintenance and renovation plans for the High School and Middle School.

Mr. Cobb asked for the RMPSC to support this article.

#### **Vote**

**Motion:** To support the School Committee Warrant Article seeking \$100,000 for a series of feasibility studies at the High School and Middle School Campuses.

*Moved: Mr. Mr. Ferris, Second: Ms. Crocker.*

*Roll Call Vote – all in favor, none opposed.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

### **Warrant Article – Memorial Pool Design Funds**

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the project came up at the February 11 Finance Committee meeting and their asked to have “needs” vs. “wants” separated out. Also they suggested sharing what percent of Weston residents use Memorial Pool. Recreation Department records indicate that approximately 24% of of the Weston population use the pool which compares very favorably to many surrounding towns.

Mr. Cobb suggested pointing out that the entire allocation would be provided through CPA funds.

#### **Vote**

**Motion:** To support the Recreation Commission Warrant Article requesting \$250,000 in CPA Funds for Design Fees for a Memorial Pool Renovation.

*Moved: Mr. Cobb, Second: Mr. Hipwood*

*Roll Call Vote – All in favor, none opposed.*

**Motion carries unanimously**

Warrant Article – Burchard Park Infield Renovation

Mr. Hipwood stated that he and Mr. MacDonald attended the Select Board meeting on March 16 and presented on this article. Mr. Hipwood will present again at the CPC Hearing on March 22, where the CPC is expected to vote on supporting this article.

**Vote**

Motion: To Support the RMPSC Warrant Article requesting up to \$75,000 for infield renovations at Burchard Park.

*Moved: Mr. Ferris, Second: Mr. Cobb.*

*Roll Call Vote: All in favor, none opposed.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

Field and Grounds Report – Attached.

Next meeting – Friday, April 16, 7 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 AM.

## **Attachment 2: Field and Grounds report.**

Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- School grounds working on winter tree pruning, tree/brush removal list. About 56 different projects on the list for the winter.
- Plant health care work for Beech trees around Case House scheduled for Early April and Mid May.
- Meet with arborist to discuss plant health care options for Case Campus trees. Deep root fertilization and canker treatment possible for many high profile and previously stressed trees.
- Started taking soil samples at athletic turf sites around town. 16 individual samples will be sent to UMASS Soil lab for nutrients.
- Spirit rock was reinstalled at the entrance to the HS with help from DPW on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- RAD repaired a few minor carpet issues at Proctor Field on March 19.
- Painted 100 dots for social distancing for the middle school on field 12.
- Working with DPW to move large rocks to Burchard Park to stop vehicles from entering the fields.
- Assisted recreation with removal of branches from storm damage at Memorial Pool on March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- School grounds crew working on traffic signs around both case campus and HS/MS. Removing old signs, fixing damaged signs and posts. Ongoing effort.
- Once synthetic fields were clear of snow, first maintenance of the year. Magnet, and grooming of both fields on March 11 and 12. Proctor and Field 1 are in good shape.
- Septic tank pumped at the PD Station on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Coordinated preventative service maintenance on school grounds vehicles (6) by DPW mechanics.
- Outside consultant working on submitting an NOI for hydroraking HS Pond.
- Working with Library Director on new signage for WAIC.
- Regular winter service maintenance of equipment: hot power wash equipment and vehicles, oil/filter changes, blade sharpening, hydraulic cylinder rebuilding, grease application, field painter pump rebuild.
- Securing large planters for vehicle control in front of Field School and the Council of Aging. 6 planters will be installed in early spring.
- Received proposal for permanent disc golf course at HS and MS. Reviewing documents.

-Participated in the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference via zoom on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. School head of grounds also participated in lawn and landscape seminars.

-2 school grounds crew members participated in equipment maintenance webinar by our local john deere dealer on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

-Attended New England Sports Turf Manager's Association board of director's meeting March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

-Attended New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation board of director's meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

-Daily and weekly COVID protocols in place that include daily disinfecting vehicles, equipment, tools, and grounds garage.

-School grounds continue to move equipment/setup for custodial staff, Food Service, IT Department, wastewater treatment plant deliveries, large or heavy interoffice mail, deliveries, scrap metal pickup, etc. Will continue regular moves for the district. COVID supplies moved for the school district regularly.