

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020, 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: <https://zoom.us/j/925462282>, Meeting ID: 925 462 282.

Members present: Alex Cobb, Trevor MacDonald, Michelle Callanan, Kristin Barbieri, Melissa Crocker, Charlie Hipwood, Ben Polimer, Mike McGrath, Pete Foley, Christopher Fitzgerald.

Members absent: Mark Ferris, John Powers

The meeting started at 7:05 AM.

Resident Comments: None

Minutes: The minutes from the February 28 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Burchard Park Maintenance:

Mr. Hipwood outlined some maintenance needs at Burchard Park, including mowing, fertilization, and other operational activities that Weston Little League has been funding internally since the park had opened, along with some irregular items like bench and fence repair. Typically WLL pays about \$30,000 to a contractor for routine maintenance and usually absorbs an additional \$20,000 in irregular maintenance, total of approximately \$50,000 per year.

This year, WLL will likely lose most if not all revenue due to the social distancing measures being practiced during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely they will not be able to host a spring season, questionable whether they can host a summer season, and fall always has minimal activity with WLL. As such, they need to cut costs and Burchard Park maintenance is a big part of that. They also asked whether other youth sports contribute to maintenance at similar levels as baseball does, and if the Town could be able to help with maintenance this year and possibly future years.

Mr. Polimer outlined the maintenance efforts either carried out or funded through Weston Soccer Club, Mr. MacDonald – who is on the board of WYS – said that they will also need to cancel/refund participants and maintenance costs would be questionable right now.

Mr. Cobb asked that WLL and WYS create a memo from each organization outlining their needs and requests and submit to RMPSC, who can then help advocate for more town involvement.

Memorial Pool Feasibility Study:

Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the initial feasibility is complete. Total cost including design, permitting, construction and other fees is projected at around \$4.6 million. Of this, approximately \$1.7 million is

attributed to remodeling the bath house to include the appropriate number of indoor showers, sinks etc. as indicated by the state code. The Recreation Commission is in the process of forming a committee to help through advising, advocating and possibly fundraising for this project. Mr. Fitzgerald will also discuss with the Board of Health the need to upgrade the bath house as this study illustrated, given the cost of that portion of the project with respect to the lack of demonstrated need among pool users.

School Committee Warrant Article to include feasibility of Field House and Middle School Pool:

Mr. Cobb described a warrant article submitted by the School Committee asking for \$100,000 for a feasibility study on various projects at the Middle School/High School complex. Some Master Plan priorities were identified among the projects, including adding a driveway loop for better access to fields 7,8 and 9; modifications to the Middle School pool, feasibility of a field house, pool and other items. The \$100,000 was more of a figure to put in a placeholder and would likely be adjusted down as town staff was able to analyze the scope more accurately.

Various members of the RMPSC expressed concern for the timing of the request, citing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on town revenues and an opinion shared publicly by the Finance Committee on various items, including this one. They asked Mr. Cobb to have break down the article to show a more “needs” vs. “wants” scenario before weighing in.

Field Rotation:

The RMPSC discussed a continued desire to develop a field rotation schedule to help preserve recent investments made on the field. The current closures related to COVID-19 is helpful to fields as it minimizes activity which helps turf rejuvenate. A rotation schedule continues to be worked on to be implemented moving forward.

Strategies for mosquito borne illness prevention:

Mr. Polimer noted there were efforts last fall to help with tick control on select fields which initially seem to be working, but more time is needed to determine how effective they will be. Also that in some areas around the state, mosquito spraying is already beginning. It is hard to determine yet what amount of risk there will be this year.

Field and Grounds update: Attached.

Future meetings: Next meeting will be Friday, May 15, 7 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 AM.

Attachment 1: Field and Grounds update.

Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- April 3rd, 2020

- Non frozen ground has not allowed us to do any tree removals on sports fields.
- Winter work has been completed. Long winter list was 90% completed due to little snow fall.
- Fields closed. Staff has closed, locked gates, installed barriers, signs to all facilities.
- Exposed long fence (650 feet) at WS hill. Cut down pine saplings along fence.
- Helped moving office equipment, furniture, technology to put Case House back online.
- Attended New England Regional Turfgrass Conference in Providence on March 4-5.
- Met with Charlie regarding increased maintenance at Burchard Park, cooperation with Town and Weston LL.
- Started replacing old lacrosse nets in preparation for spring lacrosse.
- Removed large white pine in front of WS. Tree was impacting school roof.
- Trees were pruned near Case House, continuing our plant health of historic Case Campus trees. American elm, 2 Magnolias, crabapple, and 2 sugar maples were pruned for health and safety. Cables were installed on the larger maple to protect large limbs from Alphabet Lane.
- Trees were pruned around electric wires at the HS and public library.
- HS Courtyard beds were cleaned, edged and mulched for spring.
- Snow stakes and sand barrels were removed at the Case Campus, HS/MS.
- Pumping septic systems while schools are closed, town buildings have limited staffing.
- Participated in a webinar on managing plants during a shut down, or limited staffing on March 26th.
- Participating on weekly zoom meetings with industry experts on sports turf issues, lawn and landscape problems/solutions during the public health emergency.
- Snow blowers have been collected and put away for the season, turf equipment has been put into the garage.
- Coordinating with vendors on a modified schedule for spring work, including fertilizer applications, aeration, etc.
- Continuing working new Case Campus buildings and wayfinding signs. Installation is 75% complete.

- Proctor Field, Pastor Park, Field #6 Irrigation construction started June 7th, 2019. Project is 95% complete. Broken light pole has be replaced.

- Working on department 20-year tree and site evaluations for all outdoor town facilities. This includes drainage, pavement, tree pruning/removals, stone walls, etc.

-School grounds continue to move equipment/setups for custodial staff, IT Department, Music Department, Food Service Department, Physical Education Department, waste water treatment plant deliveries, CH construction, school in- service workshops. Will continue regular moves for the district.