

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, MAY 21, 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/81537473686>, Meeting ID: 851 3747 3686.

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

Guest: Kelly Larocque

The meeting began at 7:00 AM.

Resident Comments: None

Minutes: The minutes from the April 16 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Potential RMPSC Candidate – Kelly Larocque

Ms. Larocque expressed her interest in joining the RMPSC to fill the At-Large opening. She has sent her children through the Recreation programs and was a long time volunteer and part time employee with the Weston Red Waves swim team. She wants to make sure the RMPSC is represented with someone to advocate for the 50+ crowd, she also is a regular pickleball player and would advocate for building courts in town.

Other committee members asked some basic questions about Ms. Larocque's background and interest in the committee and thanked her for attending and sharing her interest in the Committee.

Town Meeting results and next steps for RMPSC where applicable

- Burchard Park Infield Renovation – The article passed with an overwhelming majority, Mr. Hipwood thanked the other members of RMPSC for their help and guidance. Mr. Polimer is now working on soliciting bids for the work.
- Memorial Pool Design Fees – Mr. Fitzgerald reported that this article passed with overwhelming majority as well and is now working with the Town's Procurement Office to put a bid package together and solicit bids. His goal is to have a designer in place to start as close to July 1 as possible.
- School Feasibility Study – Mr. Cobb reported that this article passed. It may not get underway immediately because the school committee has experienced some turnover in the recent election and with an unexpected resignation. Mr. Cobb expects them to take some time to get organized and assign a person to that project. He suggested that this committee invite the Town's Facilities Director to meetings throughout the year for updates.

Pickleball

Ms. Small-Rougeau advocated for painting two more pickleball courts at Brook School Apartments to engage residents there in a game they are more likely to play.

Ms. Crocker and Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the prospect of pursuing permanent pickleball courts, starting with conducting feasibility to identify the correct location. The Master Plan identified three potential locations for Pickleball courts but there may be a better spot. Would like to have Mr. Fitzgerald begin working on Feasibility for pickleball, with a possible goal of asking for CPA request for design fees by fall Town Meeting.

Vote:

Motion – to pursue a feasibility study for pickleball court locations.

Motion: Mr. Ferris, second: Ms. Small Rougeau, roll call vote – all in favor, none opposed.

Motion carries unanimously

“Roller Friendly” walking trails

Ms. Small Rougeau stated that there are residents at Brook School Apartments dependant on scooters and wheelchairs and the RMPSC should look into building accessible trails nearby for exercise.

Some locations were discussed including around the BSA soccer field, Alphabet field, and the known advantages and challenges each face. Some members discussed housing and Ms. Small Rougeau expressed doubt about how productive it would be to wait for that Committee to make their decision. Many BSA residents need this now to assist them in remaining as active and healthy as possible.

The Rail Trail was mentioned as an accessible area nearby but it’s hard for residents to get to. Shuttle service was discussed but not certain how efficient that would be.

Burchard Park Tennis Court rehabilitation consideration

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that cracks are forming in the pavement at Burchard Park. He will pursue capital funding in the next budget cycle to have it re-surfaced.

Field and Grounds Report: Attached.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 AM.

Next meeting: Friday, July 16, 7 AM.

Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- May 21st, 2021

- In May school grounds has been preparing fields for school sports, lining for baseball and softball games.
- Mowing school fields are now 2x per week due to spring growth. This also includes Brook School Field and the Town Green.
- Lawn areas at schools are mowed every other week.
- Beech Trees at Case House were pruning on May 17th. Dead wood removed only. Need crane for last large dead wood to be removed from European Beech.
- April Vacation was extremely busy. Fertilizer was applied to all 50 acres of managed turfgrass in town.
- Failing cobblestone crosswalk at School St. was removed and stamped asphalt was added.
- 210 yards of playground mulch was delivered and spread at the 3 elementary schools.
- Irrigation systems throughout town were started on April 23. No major issues.
- Growing season 2020 water bills have been received. Currently reviewing them. Meter reading issue at Alphabet Field was resolved quickly by Water Department.
- HS and MS lawns have been core aerated.
- Helped with preparing Proctor Field and associated areas for Town Meeting
- Receiving quotes/estimates on products and services for the end of budget year.
- Consulting on Town Center invasive weeds.
- Planning on deferred tree pruning at Burchard Park. Oaks will be pruned at parking lot and tennis courts for safety and cabling large limbs. Honey locus trees will be pruned as well.
- Results back from UMASS lab regarding rhododendrons at Case House. They are not diseased but suffering from winter damage. Dyeing material was pruned, they are looking better.
- New electrical sub panel installed at Grounds Garage. Should help with less electrical issues.
- Monitoring irrigation installation at Town Center project.
- Starting writing bid specs for Burchard Park infield construction in fall 2021. Draft out for comment.
- Communications with Shaw Sports Turf, RAD Sports and Activitas on Proctor Field seam issues.
- Trees planted for Arbor Day on April 28th. Ceremony on April 30th at CS.
- DPW swept all lots at Case Campus and HS/MS on April vacation week.

- Meet with contractors for proposals on crack sealing, sidewalk repairs and line striping at HS/MS and Case Campus.
- Working on summer projects list. Including hardscape install, retaining walls, new lawn areas, multiple painting projects, and small carpentry projects.
- 16 individual sent to UMASS Soil lab for nutrients. Soils on sports fields are very good overall. Will help with agronomic planning for the next few years.
- DPW moved large rocks to Burchard Park to stop vehicles from entering the fields.
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- Had NOI hearing with ConCom for hydroraking HS Pond. NOI has been approved.
- Securing large planters for vehicle control in front of Field School and the Council of Aging. 6 planters will be installed in late spring.
- Viewing weekly webinar by Cornell on northeast lawn/landscape and sportsturf topics each Friday. Series runs from march 26th to May 21st.
- Daily and weekly COVID protocols in place that include daily disinfecting vehicles, equipment, tools, and grounds garage.
- School grounds continue to move equipment/setups 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.