

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019, 7:30 AM
WESTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

Members Present: Eric Rosenthal (chair) Xinsheng Zhu, Elly Pendergast, Julie Johnstone, Marcy Dorna, Melissa Crocker, and Trevor MacDonald

Staff: Chris Fitzgerald (Director), Sharon Locke (Assistant Director), Lauren Smith (Program Coordinator)

Guests: Mignone Murray (COA Director), Nellie Wisnia (Recreation Intern)

Resident Comments: No resident comments

Welcome: Welcome to the two newly elected Recreation Commissioners; Trevor MacDonald and Julie Johnstone. Also welcome to Nellie Wisnia, WHS senior and recreation intern.

Outdoor Ice Rink

Chris Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald explained that last winter the ice rink was put up on the Town Green specifically for the Women's Community League event on December 9th. It was too early and warm to make ice and some blamed the recreation department for the rink not being ready. Once there was ice there was only one good weekend around MLK Day, otherwise the rain and snow ruined the ice for the greater part of the skating season. The Town Manager's office didn't think that it looked good and the Town Manager requested that it not be put back up on the Town Green next year. The costs are also high, approximately \$2500.00 for about five good days of skating. College Pond works well for most people and can be cleared to form several rinks. Also next year Weston Recreation will be taking over the Weston Skating Club for more skating options.

Discussion took place among the Recreation Commission and most agreed that it was a massive undertaking for very little value especially when the department already has College Pond. It was also noted that winters are getting warmer making for less available for skating days. Many felt that that all man power and resources should be put into College Pond and the Skate Club at Rivers.

By implied consent, the Recreation Commission authorized not erecting an outdoor rink for the 2019-2020 skating season. The Recreation Commission will re-evaluate this for the following winter.

Renovation of COA

Mignone Murray & Chris Fitzgerald

Additional social space is desperately needed at the COA. Please see the attachment for the newly devised plans. The plan is to take down the wall between the COA conference room and Gathering Space and move it towards the front of the building to creating a more desirable location for social space. This will allow them to have a coffee area just outside their main office area, and encourage patrons to gather informally. They may also consider adding a second door to the outside balcony down the road, one that would connect with the coffee area. Ms. Murray is not opposed to this new space being rentable space but would need COA Board approval for that. Mr. Fitzgerald reminded the commission that this was not costing anything because it was funded through a generous donation.

Motion: Motion made to support the new design for COA space

Moved: Ms. Dorna; Second: Mr. Zhu

Vote: All in favor, none opposed

Weston Junior Broadway

Chris Fitzgerald

Recreation has been approached by the Weston Friendly Society about taking over Weston Junior Broadway. The Friendly Society is capable to taking over the entire program if Recreation was willing to still provide building space and building supervision. The Friendly Society would like to reinstate the former tradition of having high school helpers.

Discussion took place among the Recreation Commission and several questions for the Friendly Society arose.

1. Is the Friendly Society committed to keep the program going even after their own high school kids have aged out?
2. How will they choose the high school helpers? Will it be a fair process with interviews?
3. Can they take part of the ticket revenue and provide scholarships for those children that qualify.
4. Will they continue the charity aspect of Junior Broadway?
5. Would they consider only giving 50% to charity and then using the other 50% to offset the cost of the ticket so that more people would have the opportunity to see the show?
6. Will this program be open to METCO students? How will METCO students get home if they don't have a bus?

The Recreation Commission would also like assurance from the Friendly Society that there will be fairness when choosing the high school helpers. There was also concern among the Recreation Commission that by handing over the program to the Friendly Society it would make the program too professional and the goals of the program would be lost.

Motion: A motion was made to allow Mr. Fitzgerald to explore the concerns and questions of the Recreation Commission, and then use his judgement in whether to turn the program over or not.

Moved; Mr. Rosenthal; Second; Ms. Pendergast

Vote: All in favor none opposed.

Lamson Park Playground

Chris Fitzgerald

Please see attached diagram. The hillside at Lamson Park is experiencing erosion from play and weather. The intent was to address the erosion problem with the Weston DPW and using boulder but there have been complaints from parents of younger children regarding safety. It was suggested to put up fencing to provide no access to the hill.

Ms. Pendergast would like the area to be left open to keep the play experience.

Mr. Fitzgerald agreed to carry out the erosion control effort as discussed then re-evaluate whether a fence is needed.

The Commission would like Mr. Fitzgerald to look into a shade structure for the playground.

Equipment Repair: Some of the playground equipment is splitting. All pieces are still under warranty and repairs have been made.

Dog Walking

Melissa Crocker

Ms. Crocker informed the commission that the residents of Indian Hill Road have been having problems with dog walkers and parking. The residents of Indian Hill Road will want to attend a meeting soon. Ms. Johnstone feels that this is first a traffic and sidewalk issue and they should start there. Ms. Dorna agrees with Ms. Johnstone, which since there is no field or recreation land at the end of Indian Hill Road it should start there.

Ms. Pendergast requested that Mr. Fitzgerald review the Dog Bylaws and then work with the Town Manager to address the issues that are seen.

Rail Trail Update

Chris Fitzgerald & Eric Rosenthal

Construction has started on the Concord/Church Street spurs as well as the Conant Road tunnel. At the last Rail Trail meeting they took a vote and approved all granite benches. For an opening ceremony they are thinking of a 5K and multigenerational 1 mile walk.

Recreation Master Plan

Chris Fitzgerald

Not too much new to report. Upcoming public meeting dates are going to be June 10th or June 11th. The survey is still open.

Memorial Pool Update

Chris Fitzgerald

The concrete repairs are being finished by the aquatics contractor today (May 22nd). July 20 is the food truck event. The Recreation Commission would like to see a big advertising push on this thorough, Facebook, twitter, civic send, Instagram, and the COA newsletter.

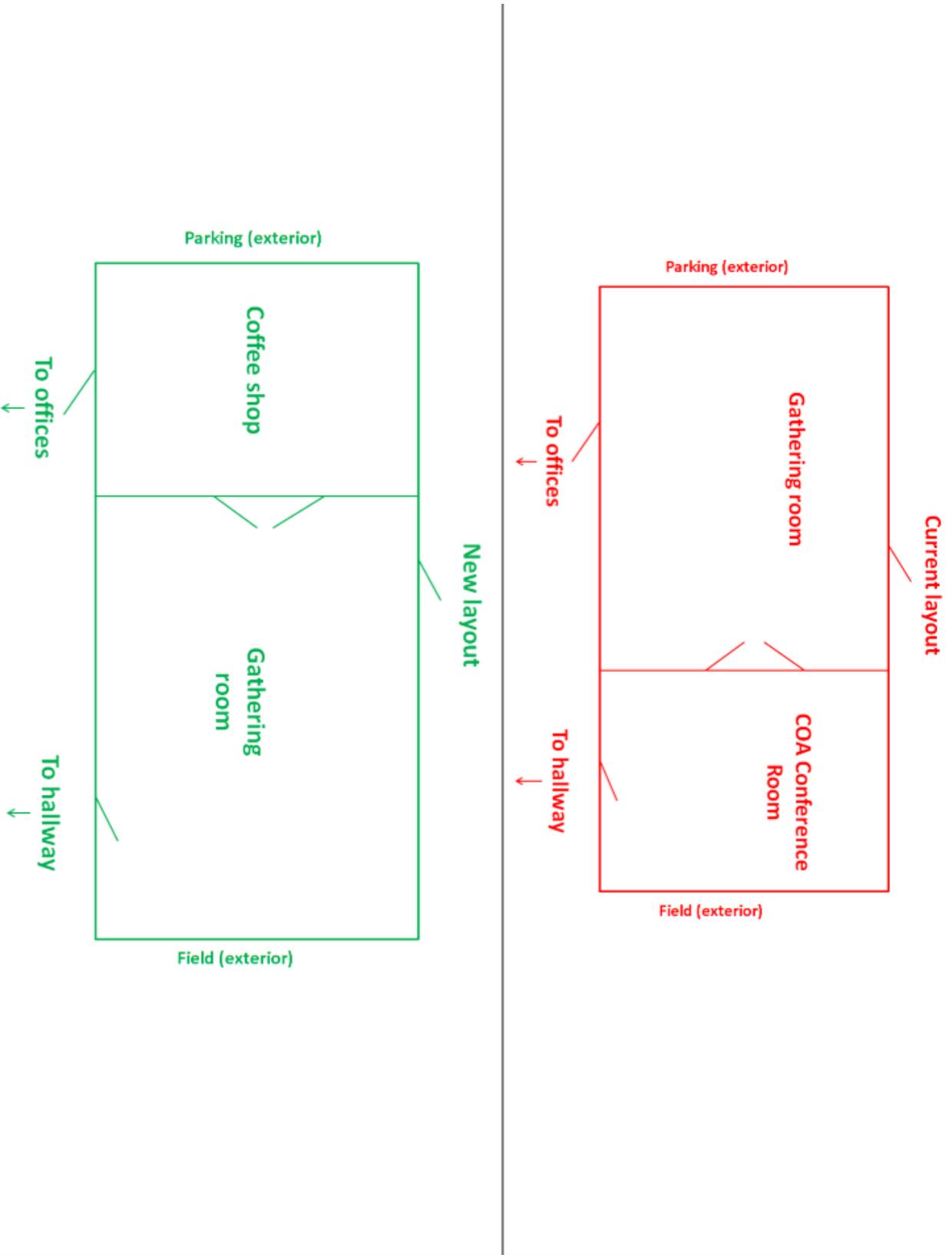
Pickleball

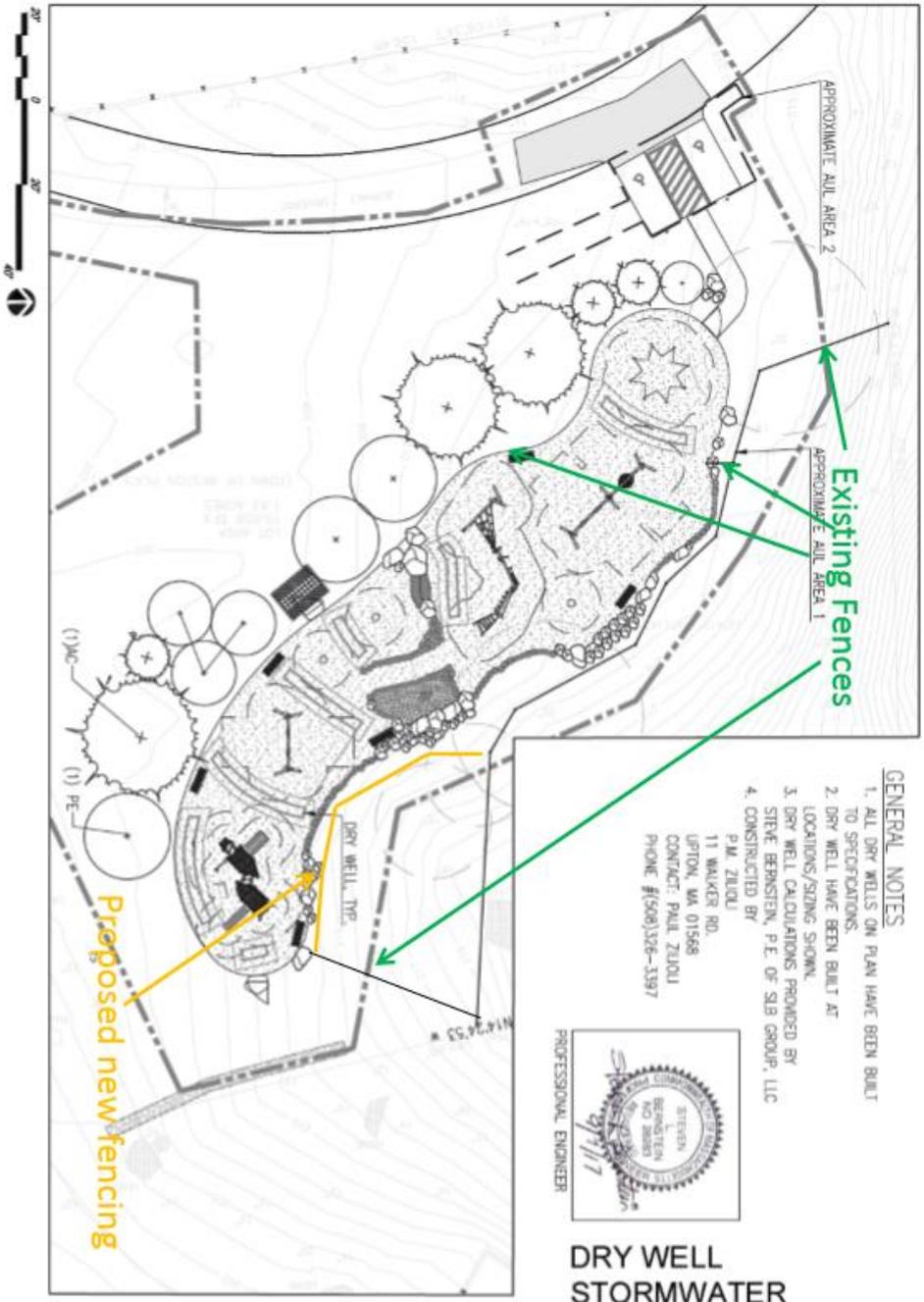
Chris Fitzgerald

Currently lines are planned for Burchard tennis courts. Ms. Pendergast would like the Recreation Department to offer a pickleball workshop. Mr. Rosenthal thought that Brook School Apartments was a better place for pickleball lines because of its proximity to senior housing. After some discussion, they asked the Recreation Department to place the lines at Brook School Apartments instead of Burchard Park.

The minutes from the April 24, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Meeting Adjourned





Existing Fences

Proposed new fencing

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL DRY WELLS ON PLAN HAVE BEEN BUILT TO SPECIFICATIONS.
2. DRY WELL HAVE BEEN BUILT AT LOCATIONS/SIZING SHOWN.
3. DRY WELL CALCULATIONS PROVIDED BY STEVE BERENSTEIN, P.E. OF SIA GROUP, LLC
4. CONSTRUCTED BY
P.M. ZILIOU
11 WALKER RD.
UPTON, MA 01568
CONTACT: PAUL ZILIOU
PHONE # (508) 326-3397



**DRY WELL
STORMWATER
SYSTEM
AS BUILT**
scale: AS NOTED

LAND PREPARATION FOR A PLAYGROUND AT LAMSON PARK,
0 TOWN HALL ROAD
WESTON, MA
09/06/2017

kzla