

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019, 7:00 AM
WESTON COMMUNITY CENTER
20 ALPHABET LN., WESTON, MA 02493**

Members Present: Alex Cobb, Melissa Crocker, Kristin Barbieri, Michael McGrath, Ben Polimer, Christopher Fitzgerald, Trevor MacDonald, Charlie Hipwood, Michelle Callanan

Remote Participants: Charlie Hipwood, Mark Ferris

Members absent: John Power

The meeting commenced at 7:00 AM

Public Comments – None

Minutes

The minutes from the May 17, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Recreation Master Plan Update

Project Narrative

Mr. McGrath noted that the WPS Athletic Department is doing a peer comparison, and looking at the quality of Weston athletic facilities in comparison with those of the public high schools in similar towns. The trend he is seeing is that Weston's outdoor school facilities fare well in comparison, but the indoor facilities are lacking in some areas, particularly in storage and locker room availability. His point is that the final master plan should address that in some way.

A draft narrative that was provided by Weston & Sampson was discussed which added information and provided a direction for where the consultants felt the final product was headed. It pointed out that – according to a field use matrix developed with schedules – the outdoor fields were not overused, but that a few are underused. An effort will be suggested to distribute the scheduling of fields more evenly. With indoor spaces, overall use isn't excessive, however, availability to the public is problematic. There is a desire to have access to indoor pools and gymnasiums during the school day, which doesn't exist now. There is also a sense that evening availability is not sufficient for either spaces during the winter sports seasons.

New concepts

New concepts for Cat Rock Park were discussed, which included a revived ski hill and a high-ropes course. The RMPSC felt neither were feasible to pursue – skiing because the Town eliminated it in the 1970's due to low use; and high ropes because it would involve a large liability and staffing cost to operate. A second rendering of Cat Rock depicted four pickleball courts on the existing baseball field. The Committee was favorable to that concept, particularly if use could be limited somehow to paid members or badge holders and it would provide a recreational purpose for the existing parking area.

Deliverables and public meeting dates

The Committee would like to see a more thorough report before a public meeting. Tentative dates for the next public meetings are either Wednesday or Thursday, September 4 or 5 at 7 PM; and September 7, time to be determined.

General topics

Scheduling priorities – school fields

It was noted that recently there was minor confusion on the use of Field 1 as to which group was correctly scheduled between men's soccer and youth lacrosse. This is another example of how the town would benefit from a centralized field scheduling system, the RMPSC is considering placing it in the Master Plan or giving a directive for the town to do this. There is going to be an effort to investigate different software that may be available to assist with this.

Field signs – dog waste

Ms. Barbieri noted seeing people walking dogs around ball fields and on ballfields and – in some cases – not picking up after them. She requested that the town look into increasing signage at Burchard and the other parks around town to clarify the use of dogs on the fields; also to encourage picking up after dogs.

Proctor Field updates

Checklist items continue, including work on irrigation and plumbing, also doors and jams in the concession areas were installed incorrectly and need to be fixed.

High school well irrigation

The project discussed more than a year ago to install test pits for wells at the High School / Middle School complex is on hold. The cost is \$25,000 to \$28,000; state funds were applied for to cover this and has been denied. Currently looking into other ways the project may be able to be funded.

High school tennis courts

Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Polimer have been considering work on the high school tennis courts to repair minor cracks and re-paint to extend the life for 5-10 years. A public bid request was released in the spring with prices coming back at more than \$60,000; which was about double what was initially expected. A trusted engineer was brought in to look at the courts with facilities staff and clarify if the bids accurately reflected what we were trying to accomplish; he identified flaws with the most recent construction that is creating the cracking that is visible now. The work we bid out would last 2-3 years and the problem would be back; he recommended re-doing the top layer of asphalt among other things which would drive the cost into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Facilities and Recreation are considering crack filling only on the structural cracks which is much cheaper and will buy some time but will not fix the surface cracks. Mr. Fitzgerald recommends that the RMPSC consider including a re-furbishing of the high school and possibly other tennis courts as part of the new Master Plan.

Field and Grounds report

Mr. Polimer submitted the field and grounds report attached.

Next meeting: Friday, August 2, 7 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 AM.

Attachment 1: Field and Grounds Report.

Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- June 21st, 2019

- Fields are lined weekly, regular grooming of infields. Mowing weekly. Last lining was this past week. All school and youth sports are complete for the season.
- Continuing overseeding program to all wear areas on high use fields. 2-4 bags of seed per every 2 weeks are used.
- 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, JST Construction, Graduation. Will continue regular moves for the district.
- Irrigation has not been used so far due to the wet spring.
- Coordinated with Weston LL on scheduling deep tine aeration the first week in June at Burchard Park.
- Working with Weston LL on mitigating severe drainage issues at Burchard Park. Due to differed maintenance.
- Continuing working new Case Campus buildings and wayfinding signs. Signs have been delivered. Installation is 50% complete.
- Proctor Field, Pastor Park, Field #6 Irrigation project bids back, bids were under the estimated costs. Construction started June 10th, 2019. Project is going along smoothly.
- Continue planning projects, Woodland School Playground work, Country School Garden Cleanup, Middle School Lawn Repair, HS Pond Hydro Raking, Headwall repairs at the HS, Cobblestone Crosswalk repairs at Library, vacuum sweeping porous pavement parking lot at FS, sidewalk repairs at MS, HS F wing drainage, dead tree removals.
- Case Campus and HS/MS Complex electric lines will be pruned via Eversource. Will work with the contractor.
- Working on department 20-year tree and site evaluations for all outdoor town facilities. This includes drainage, pavement, tree pruning/removals, stone walls, etc.
- Hired 4 summer help. All college students who are working out well.
- Continuing clearing out drains, catch basin, and culverts due rainy spring.
- Coordinated HS graduation setup at Town Green on June 7th. Green was mowed 3x, sidewalk edged, weeded, and blown.
- Monitor and treat poison ivy at Lamson Park as needed.
- Large area mower was sent to CT for service. Been back for 3 weeks with no issues.
- Irrigation pump has been reinstalled at Field School. System is charged and ready to work when needed. Project complete.
- Fields were fertilizer for the summer on June 14th.
- Continuing to work with Recreation, Schools, and Youth Sports on scheduling of fields, lighting, Proctor Building usage.

- Proctor Field had 2 seems that failed. They were repaired.
- Library Cobblestone crosswalks were reinstalled on June 5th and 7th.
- Field 3 was topdressed with 54 tons of sand on June 7th. This helps were drainage, and playability.
- Fields 3,4, 6-11, FS, CS, WS, Alphabet were deeptine aerated on June 4th and 5th. This helps with deeper rooting, drainage, and relieving compaction.
- Fields 2-4, 6-12, FS, CS, WS, Brook, Alphabet, 31 acres were core aerated on June 17-18. This relieves soil compaction, allows better nutrient uptake and playability.
- Fields 3 and Alphabet, aeration cores were swept up. This helps the sand go into the holes quicker.
- Coordinated with MS staff on June Academy projects.
- Meet with students for June Academy projects that included Civics lessons, and HS/MS water quality, fertilization and pond health.