

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 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/88043010987>, Meeting ID: 880 4301 0987.

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

Members absent: Melissa Crocker

The meeting began at 7:03 AM.

Resident Comments: Mr. MacDonald noted that Michelle Callanan had submitted her resignation with her term expiring upon Town Meeting. The Committee considered reaching out to an applicant from last fall who wasn't selected but agreed to get clarity on whether a replacement could serve out a full term or would need to be re-appointed after Town Meeting.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 22 meeting were reviewed and approved.

2020 Annual Report

The Annual Report for 2020 was reviewed and approved for submittal to the Town Manager (Attachment 1).

Youth Sport and Field Use update

Weston Soccer Club - Mr. Ferris stated that Soccer will operate very similarly as they did in the fall as guidelines are similar. Mask wearing will be enforced with a COVID coach and COVID coordinator. Soccer plans to re-enter the Bays league this year and the K-2 program will have separate entrances and exits to Alphabet instead of delaying starts in order to save money on the professional instruction. The entrance will take place at the ramp from Alphabet Rd., exit at the bridge on the western side of the field.

Weston Youth LaCrosse – Ms. Martin stated that the girls will practice on Monday and Wednesday; boys practice on Tuesday and Thursday; Bus Barn will be used on Fridays. Second grade groups will start intramural games with four surrounding town this year, Lacrosse has a lot of coaches.

Weston Little League – Mr. Hipwood stated that baseball will take place mostly at Burchard Park, softball at the high school field, need to coordinate schedules with the high school teams. Still working on COVID plan but suspect it will be similar to last fall.

General Recreation – Mr. Fitzgerald noted that guidelines permit for and the EMT approved pickup games at Recreation fields this year, facemasks are mandatory.

Update on prevention for cars on fields

Mr. Ferris reported meeting with Mr. Polimer about car access to fields, the primary objective should be to make sure gates are closed where they exist. Burchard could use improved security and additional gates and boulders should be considered. Czarnowski could use boulders but plowing and parking is more of an issue there, use is minimal and mostly takes place on the basketball court. More consideration should be made for that location.

General update on outstanding project funding requests

Mr. Hipwood reported that the CPC meeting for field rehabilitation at Burchard Park went well, will need to attend the hearing on March 22 where a vote will take place. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Town Manager invited the RMPSC to present at a Select Board meeting to introduce the project to the town, Mr. Fitzgerald will look into getting on an agenda.

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that the Recreation Commission held a public input session to share the request for Memorial Pool Rehabilitation Design Fees publicly. The project was presented and the only public feedback was “Good Job”.

Mr. Cobb mentioned that the School Committee will press forward with a request to fund a collection of feasibility studies at the Middle School and High School complex, some of these may investigate areas that were highlighted within the Recreation Master Plan.

Mr. MacDonald also raised a question about pickleball courts to be considered at a future meeting. Ms. Small-Rougeau suggested the courts at Brook School Apartments may be a good site for pickleball.

Field and Grounds update:

Attachment 2.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 AM.

Attachment 1: 2020 Annual Report.

REPORT OF THE RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

In 2020, the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee finalized the 2020 Master Plan in March and worked to put it in action. COVID-19 struck in March and for the remainder of the year committee met in a virtual format. Focus of the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee in 2020 was on finalizing and initiating the Master Plan it had been developing for the past year. The new Master Plan can be found here: <https://www.weston.org/1342/Recreation-Master-Plan>.

The primary purpose of the plan was to:

- Emphasize proper maintenance on new and existing facilities to maximize their useful life.
- Plan capital maintenance items to ensure that investments from the previous plan and new initiatives from this plan meet their full potential.
- Plan for the future recreational needs of Weston.
- Consider the needs of indoor recreational spaces and pools.

Initiatives included a planned schedule for capital rehabilitation projects that would ensure current facilities remain in good condition, continued emphasis on maintenance, rehabilitation work on Memorial Pool, adding pickleball courts, and improving accessibility to select facilities.

The first action item was to support a design fees request from the Recreation Commission to renovate the Weston Memorial Pool. The purpose is to replace aging filters then add recreational amenities and make some upgrades to accessibility, concessions, and reception.

The Committee also unanimously supported a warrant article for Town meeting that would fund a series of interconnected feasibility studies at the Middle School and High School Complex. This would support the Town and Facilities Department's need to plan for long term renovations of the High School and Middle School, address unsafe traffic and parking conditions at both schools, and explore other concepts generated by the Recreation Master Plan, all of which would need to consider limitations posed by an existing wastewater treatment plant and wetland areas that exist on location. Ultimately, this proposal was deferred as part of a compromise budget negotiated by the Select Board with the Finance Committee.

Other priorities identified within the Master Plan include:

- Improve parking and access to select outdoor facilities in Town.
- Create pickleball courts to meet the growing demand for that sport.
- Implement a scheduling system that can be accessed by the general public at any time.
- Consider ways to protect the Town against mosquito borne illnesses and other health threats such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

As the year progressed, the Committee stayed updated on the state guidelines detailing COVID-19 related safety measures for the various sporting groups.

In the fall, Weston Little League approached the Town about turning over the management of maintenance at Burchard Park. WLL has managed this since the facility was built in 2008, but budget challenges caused some treatments to be deferred which led to poor drainage and safety issues with

current field conditions. Utilizing the knowledge and abilities of the Field and Grounds department will better guarantee proper treatments at the appropriate time.

The Committee also began looking into efforts that would prevent revelers from driving on the field. An incident in the fall created minor damage on numerous School and Recreation fields, staff and Committee members are revisiting ways to prevent that.

In 2021, the RMPSC will be working with WLL toward a minor rehabilitation at Burchard Park to improve those field conditions, and discussing other priorities such as pickleball and accessible pathways.

Membership

In September, Kristin Barbieri resigned her position, citing the accomplishment of her goal to help shepherd the Master Plan to its conclusion, also the extensive volunteer work that she is involved with elsewhere around Weston. She was replaced in December with Shirley A. Small-Rougeau, a resident with extensive experience in Recreation Facility management.

Mark Ferris was named as the Youth Soccer representative in recognizing his membership to Soccer's board of directors, previously he served as the Lacrosse representative. The Lacrosse position will be filled by Pam Martin in 2021.

Town-Wide Field Maintenance Budget

Field Maintenance budget for FY 20 was \$176,260 which represented a 3.6% increase from FY 19. No major renovation or rehabilitation projects took place.

2020 Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee Members

At-large members jointly appointed by the Select Board and School Committee

Trevor MacDonald	2023	At-large, Chair
Shirley Small-Rougeau	2022	At-large
Michelle Callanan	2021	At-large
Alex Cobb		School Committee
Melissa Crocker		Recreation Commission
Mark Ferris		Weston Youth Lacrosse
Charlie Hipwood		Weston Little League Baseball and Softball
John Power		Weston Youth Soccer
Peter Foley		Athletic Director (retired), ex officio
Ben Polimer		Field and Grounds Coordinator, ex officio
Michael McGrath		Athletic Director, ex officio
Chris Fitzgerald		Recreation Director, ex officio

Member whose service ended in 2020

Kristen Barbieri

Thank you for your service!

Attachment 2: Field and Grounds report.

Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- February 26th, 2021

- Snow plowing operations for the following storms: January 27th- 3", February 1st- 2nd- 15", February 7th- 4", February 9th- 3" and February 19th-20th- 6". After storms, cleaning out corners, pushing piles, removing snow for visibility and public access takes on average 2-5 days after each storm.
- School grounds working on winter tree pruning, tree/brush removal list. About 46 different small projects on the list for the winter.
- Working with tree contractor on plant health care options for Beech trees around Case House. Tentatively scheduled for Early April and Mid May.
- Removed 2 large declining maples at the public library and 2 severely damaged white pines behind the Case House on January 26th.
- Outside consultant working on submitting an NOI for hydroraking HS Pond.
- Participated in Water Working Group meeting on January 28th.
- Coordinated Middle School Tight tank pumping on February 8th.
- Attended TAG Meeting on February 10th to discuss Arbor Day tree planting proposal.
- Meetings with Athletic Director regarding start of Fall II sports.
- Used tractor to make wheel marks on Proctor Field to aide in snow melt.
- Working with Library Director on new signage for WAIC.
- Regular winter service maintenance of equipment: hot power wash equipment, oil/filter changes, blade sharpening, hydraulic cylinder rebuilding, grease application.
- Major repair- G6 4x4 transmission repair due to snow plowing
- 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.
- Attended New England Sports Turf Manager's Association board of director's meeting February 17th, 2021.
- Attended New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation board of director's meeting on January 19th and February 25th 2021.
- Attended turfgrass education training via Teams on February 1 and February 3.

-Attended MIAA training on back injury prevention on January 28th.

-Attended Northern New England Turf Virtual Seminar on February 25th.

-Guest lecturer at UMASS Turf Winter School Program on February 24th.

-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.