

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 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/84298360373>, Meeting ID: 842 9836 0373.

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

*Members absent: Pam Martin*

*Guest: Sapna Krishnan*

The meeting began at 7:00 AM.

**Resident Comments:** None

**Minutes:** The minutes from the February 26 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Potential RMPSC Candidate – Sapna Krishna**

Ms. Krishna introduced herself and expressed interest in joining the RMPSC. Ms. Krishnan has children who take part in Red Waves, Summer Camps and other Recreation Programs and her family uses Memorial Pool on a regular basis. She has a strong background in capital planning and project management, is familiar with the Master Plan and is interested in working with the Committee to help the plan come to fruition.

Other members of the Committee had either met or spoken with with Ms. Krishnan prior to the meeting and were glad she was interested in joining.

**Pickleball Courts**

Ms. Crocker advocated for beginning to pursue pickleball courts in town. She advocated for finding a short term solution to meet the growing demand for pickleball while we search for a more permanent solution, such as painting more pickleball courts on more tennis courts.

A discussion took place about locations for pickleball court, noting that three options were suggested in the Master Plan but each locations has their advantages and challenges. Mr. Cobb noted that a temporary solution wasn't within the purvue of this Committee but it can begin exploring possible sites for courts, and may want to consider acquiring funds for feasibility studies in the near future for this.

## **Town Meeting Update**

### **Warrant Article – School Committee Series of Feasibility Studies.**

Mr. Cobb summarized the warrant article discussing a series of feasibility studies involving the Middle School and High School complex, including some directives of the Recreation Master Plan, specifically:

- Renovations of the High School gym, locker rooms, Middle School pool, gym and locker rooms; and creating a driveway loop behind the middle school to enhance accessibility to fields 7, 8, 9 and 10.
- Location, sizing and massing of a new larger pool with separate diving well.

Feasibility analysis would take into consideration limitations posed by the capacity of existing wastewater treatment plant among other things and long term maintenance and renovation plans for the High School and Middle School.

Mr. Cobb asked for the RMPSC to support this article.

### **Vote**

**Motion:** To support the School Committee Warrant Article seeking \$100,000 for a series of feasibility studies at the High School and Middle School Campuses.

*Moved: Mr. Mr. Ferris, Second: Ms. Crocker.*

*Roll Call Vote – all in favor, none opposed.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

### **Warrant Article – Memorial Pool Design Funds**

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the project came up at the February 11 Finance Committee meeting and their ask to have “needs” vs. “wants” separated out. Also they suggested sharing what percent of Weston residents use Memorial Pool. Recreation Department records indicate that approximately 24% of the Weston population use the pool which compares very favorably to many surrounding towns.

Mr. Cobb suggested pointing out that the entire allocation would be provided through CPA funds.

### **Vote**

**Motion:** To support the Recreation Commission Warrant Article requesting \$250,000 in CPA Funds for Design Fees for a Memorial Pool Renovation.

*Moved: Mr. Cobb, Second: Mr. Hipwood*

*Roll Call Vote – All in favor, none opposed.*

**Motion carries unanimously**

Warrant Article – Burchard Park Infield Renovation

Mr. Hipwood stated that he and Mr. MacDonald attended the Select Board meeting on March 16 and presented on this article. Mr. Hipwood will present again at the CPC Hearing on March 22, where the CPC is expected to vote on supporting this article.

**Vote**

Motion: To Support the RMPSC Warrant Article requesting up to \$75,000 for infield renovations at Burchard Park.

*Moved: Mr. Ferris, Second: Mr. Cobb.*

*Roll Call Vote: All in favor, none opposed.*

**Motion carries unanimously.**

Field and Grounds Report – Attached.

Next meeting – Friday, May 21, 7 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 AM.

## **Attachment 2: Field and Grounds report.**

Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- All fields for spring youth sports were prepped and painted. Goals put out. Weekly painting will now occur.
- All school lawns and sports fields were detached, blown clean.
- Sportsfield were all mowed for first time on April 13-14.
- Case Park and the Town Green was core aerated on March 22.
- School grounds finished working on winter tree pruning, tree/brush removal list. About 56 different projects were on the list for the winter. Over 150 trees were pruned.
- Beech Trees at Case House were air spaded and leaf mold added on April 1 and 2.
- April vacation week is busy with fertilizer applications, tree work, sidewalk repairs, adding playground mulch to school playgrounds and irrigation startup town wide.
- Sending diseased rhododendron branches to UMASS lab for testing. Plants are showing root disease at Case House.
- Will monitor irrigation install at Town Center Project. Expected to being install in 2 weeks.
- Meet with Weston LL on starting writing bid specs for Burchard Park infield construction in fall 2021.
- Communications with Shaw Sports Turf, RAD Sports and Activitas on Proctor Field seam issues.
- Meet with TAG, WFT, CS PTO and Eversource Arborists on tree planting at CS for Arbor Day.
- Coordinating with DPW for sweeping all lots at Case Campus and HS/MS for April vacation week.
- Meet with contractors for proposals on crack sealing, sidewalk repairs and line striping at HS/MS.
- Working on possible summer projects list. Including hardscape install, retaining walls, new lawn areas, multiple painting projects, and small carpentry projects.
- Took soil samples at athletic turf sites around town. 16 individual sent to UMASS Soil lab for nutrients, just received results yesterday.
- 20 bags of gypsum were applied to high salt areas around schools. Primarily walkways, sidewalks, and bus pickup/drop off locations.
- DPW moved large rocks to Burchard Park to stop vehicles from entering the fields.

-School grounds crew working on traffic signs around both case campus and HS/MS. Removing old signs, fixing damaged signs and posts. Ongoing effort.

-Synthetic fields were groomed, some rubber added to goal areas on Proctor Field on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Outside consultant working on submitting an NOI for hydroraking HS Pond. Con Com meeting scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>.

-Securing large planters for vehicle control in front of Field School and the Council of Aging. 6 planters will be installed in late spring.

-Meet with HS faculty and WFT rep on proposed Disc Golf course at HS/MS.

-Viewing weekly webinar by Cornell on northeast lawn/landscape and sportsturf topics each Friday. Series runs from march 26<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>.

-Daily and weekly COVID protocols in place that include daily disinfecting vehicles, equipment, tools, and grounds garage.

-School grounds continue to move equipment/setup 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.