

**WESTON RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, May 6, 2021 7:30 PM**

*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: <https://zoom.us/j/925462282>, Meeting ID: 392 344 366.*

**Members Present:** Eric Rosenthal (Chair), Melissa Crocker, Trevor MacDonald, Julie Johnstone, Maija Cirulis-Gooch, and Adam King

**Absent:** Marcy Dorna

**Staff:** Chris Fitzgerald (Director), Sharon Locke (Assistant Director)

**Resident Comments:** None

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Rail Trail Update**

**Eric Rosenthal**

Paul Penfield is going to spend additional Weston 300<sup>th</sup> money to add additional benches on the Rail Trail. There will be a Rail Trail meeting taking place on Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>. The residents of Gun Club Lane are in opposition of a bench being placed there because they do not want it to become a gathering place at the end of their road.

**Brook School Walking Path**

**Melissa Crocker**

A Brook School resident is asking for wheel chair and walker accessible walking paths around the Brook School Apartments. The resident was told to start with the Recreation Master Plan Committee and then the Master Plan Committee will bring the request to the Recreation Commission.

**High School/Middle School Master Plan Study** **Melissa Crocker & Chris Fitzgerald**

Alex Cobb, Weston School Committee, would like a vote of support on Article 22 (see attached) which is asking for \$80,000 from the remaining Proctor Field design to fund a series of feasibility studies at the High School and Middle School campuses.

***Motion: To approve support for Article 22***

*Moved: Ms. Crocker; Second: Mr. Rosenthal*

*Roll Call Vote was taken, all in favor none opposed*

***Motion Carried Unanimously***

**Presentation of Memorial Pool**

**Chris Fitzgerald & Eric Rosenthal**

The Commission reviewed the Memorial Pool presentation that will be made at town meeting (please see attached). Some words were clarified but otherwise the commission agreed that it was a good presentation.

**FY22 Recreation Operational Budget**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

There is some speculation that the FY22 Recreation Operational Budget may get pulled out of the consent agenda at Town Meeting. Discussion took place on how to approach this if it were to happen. It

was decided that Ms. Crocker will speak on behalf of the Recreation Department at Town Meeting if needed, and work with Ms. Cirulis-Gooch and Mr. Fitzgerald on a statement.

**Donation to the Wayland/Weston Crew**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald would like to donate an out of town Memorial Pool Membership to the Wayland/Weston Crew "Rowapalooza" Auction. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that Wayland/Weston Crew has always been good partners with both the Weston and Wayland Recreation Department. The Recreation Commission was in favor of this donation.

**Summer Programming- Impacts of recent COVID restriction changes**

**Chris Fitzgerald**

Currently It looks like adults who are not vaccination will still be required to wear a mask indoors and at all times when a six-foot distance cannot be maintained, social distancing areas still to be marked off at pool for households. Camps still will require masking indoors. Signs will be hung at the pool and around the community center.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**

**Motion: Motion made to adjourn the meeting**

*Moved: Mr. MacDonald Second: Ms. Johnstone*

***Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 pm***

## **Attachment 1: High School/Middle School feasibility study article**

### **ARTICLE xx:                    APPROPRIATE FOR HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS MASTER PLAN STUDY**

To appropriate a sum of money to pay costs for a series of feasibility studies at the High School and Middle School Campuses, as well as all incidental costs related thereto, to be spent under the direction of the Town Manager, the money so appropriated to be transferred from available funds (free cash); or take any other action relative thereto.

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#### **Article xx Explanation:**

This article proposes funding for a series of interconnected feasibility studies for properties under the control of the Weston School Department. These studies will include a clear distinction between basic infrastructure requirements that are “level service” in nature and improvements that are “discretionary” and go beyond level service. The results of each of these studies will be provided to the town so that residents can have sufficient information to make clear choices.

The High School and Middle School campus is served by a wastewater treatment plant and has wetlands on several parts of the property. Any renovations, changes or proposed additions need to take these limiting factors into account. The School Committee and School Administration believe that these feasibility studies are the most responsible way for the Town and Facilities Department to plan for the maintenance and potential improvement of this important town asset. In the past, residents and the Finance Committee have asked for more visibility on what major projects may be coming down the pike. These studies will help provide this transparency.

These studies are a result of several factors: the need to plan for long term renovations of the High School and the Middle School, unsafe traffic and parking conditions at both schools, and other ideas and concepts that were generated by the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee’s new 10-year Master Plan. This Committee is a standing committee charged by the Select Board with updating and publishing a new Master Plan every ten years. This committee includes elected representatives from the Recreation Commission and the School Committee, as well as youth sports representatives, town and school staff and At-Large members appointed by the Select Board. These are feasibility studies – they are not formal proposals nor are they requests for design or construction funds. Weston residents will have multiple opportunities to evaluate the design and potential costs of any projects that result from these studies. The new Master Plan can be found here: <https://www.weston.org/1342/Recreation-Master-Plan>

Projects include but are not limited to:

“Level Service” items that would include:

A - Renovations of the High School gym, locker rooms, auditorium, music practice rooms, offices and cafeteria. The auditorium is due for renovation at some point in the next several years. The high school gym locker rooms do not meet current needs and standards. Coordinated planning for this wing of the High School is prudent.

B - Renovations of the current Middle School pool, gym and locker rooms. The pool was constructed in in the late 1960's with a major renovation in 1990 and other minor repairs over its lifetime. The Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee engaged Weston & Sampson to conduct a facility assessment of the pool as part of the Recreation Master Plan. They concluded that the pool is reaching its life expectancy and will most likely require approximately \$100,000 to \$300,000 in reinvestment within the next several years to keep it in compliance with code requirements and to meet the needs of the Town.

C – Adjusting traffic patterns to resolve congestion and safety issues. Increasing parking capacity and pedestrian safety for school and town usage. Supporting handicap parking needs. Evaluating the feasibility of solar canopies over certain parking lots. Evaluating the possibility for electric vehicle charging (including school buses.)

D - Creating a driveway loop behind the Middle School with handicap access and parking to improve access and increase the utilization of four natural grass fields - 7, 8, 9 and 10 on this map: <https://www.westonschools.org/high/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/03/AthleticsFieldMap.jpg>

“Discretionary enhancements” which could include:

E – Location, sizing and massing of a new, larger pool with a separate diving well. The Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee identified a need for a larger facility to handle current demands from the high school and recreation (Red Waves) teams. The high school team is large and is forced to practice in two shifts after school. The diving team regularly practices in other facilities due to crowding. The Recreation program also practices in multiple evening shifts. The later start time at the high school and the middle school have pushed these Red Waves practices even later into the evening for these elementary-aged children.

The feasibility of utilizing the existing wastewater treatment plant in conjunction with these renovations, changes and potential improvements will be considered. Each of these feasibility studies will be considered within the overall long-term maintenance and renovation plans for the High School and Middle School.

***This article has been recommended by the School Committee and the amount to be requested under this article is \$100,000.***