

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021**

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.

Members present: Melissa Crocker, Trevor MacDonald, Charlie Hipwood, Shirley Small-Rougeau, Kelly Larocque, Mark Ferris, Ben Polimer, Christopher Fitzgerald, Pete Foley.

Absent: Attia Linnard, Mike McGrath.

Guest: Alex Cobb.

The meeting began at 7:02 AM.

Resident Comments: None

Minutes: The minutes from the September 17 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Update on Committee Members:

- Mr. MacDonald talked to the president of Weston Youth Basketball who identified a person to fill their position on the RMPSC. Mr. Fitzgerald is to check with the Town Manager's office to be sure that Basketball is officially added to the RMPSC and what the next step is for this person to become an official member.
- Mr. Ferris was appointed by the President of Weston Youth Lacrosse to represent their organization on the RMPSC. He has vacated his role as Weston Soccer Club representative.
- Mr. MacDonald was appointed by the President of Weston Soccer Club to represent their organization on the RMPSC. He has resigned from his At-Large position to serve in this new role.
- There is currently an opening for the At-Large position vacated by Trevor MacDonald. Mr. Cobb has already submitted a volunteer application to fill that role. It is not known if it has been posted yet, Mr. Fitzgerald will follow up with that.

Pickleball CPC Request update and strategy discussion:

Ms. Crocker and Mr. Fitzgerald shared the following update:

- Fall Town Meeting has been cancelled by the select board because of complications with planning an indoor Town Meeting during the ongoing pandemic, also a lack of time-sensitive issues to continue pursuing such a plan.
- The CPC cancelled their October 4 Public Hearing because Town Meeting had been cancelled. Thus, the RMPSC was not able to present our proposal as planned.
- After consulting with the CPC administrator, Ms. Crocker and Mr. Fitzgerald reduced the scope and request to \$20,000 to cover feasibility study. This amount was based on a quote received by a designer to analyze feasibility at:

- Melone Field
- Ferrelli Field
- Burt Field
- Case Campus
- Burchard Park
- Feasibility will include existing conditions, preliminary designs and price estimates, and attend up to 3 community process and/or input meetings.

The RMPSC was comfortable with and supportive of this approach, which will provide a more thorough analysis including public input on each location before deciding which one to pursue design for.

Sport group updates:

- Weston Soccer Club – Mr. MacDonald reported that they are about half way through the season and have had an increase in players this year. There has raised a question about which costs to be absorbed by whom and there is a meeting scheduled between key board members and Town staff to discuss and clarify.
- Weston Little League Baseball and Softball – Mr. Hipwood stated they are playing a fall season consisting of mostly games on weekends. The majority of their activity is taking place at the High School/Middle School complex because of the infield rehabilitation work taking place at Burchard Park.
- Lacrosse – Mr. Ferris noted that this is his first meeting in that role again and was not prepared to report.

Other projects:

- Burchard Park infield renovation – Reached substantial completion within agreed upon timeline, right now doing punch list items. DPW will sweep the parking lot when those are complete and the company has de-mobilized.
- Weston Memorial Pool Design – The Town has entered into agreement with a designer, he will present to Recreation Commission at their next meeting to discuss pros and cons of various amenities.

Field and Grounds update:

Attached.

Fields and Grounds Coordinator Update- October 15th , 2021

- The start of October has been wet, mowing and trimming has continued when not ideal weather conditions.
- Fields mowed weekly, lawns mowed biweekly.
- Fields are painted for fall sports on a weekly basis.
- Fields at CS, FS, Town Green, Fields 9-10 lime was applied on September 28th. Others did not need it per soil tests.
- Participated in Water Working Group meetings for Planning Board. Discussed possible condition changes during approval process for smart irrigation, using low water use grass seed and other items.
- Participated in Weston's Invasive Plant Advisory Group. Will be a regularly scheduled monthly meeting.
- Traffic signs on HS/MS campus were reviewed, some old/redundant signs were removed, and others are being reinstalled with new signs.
- Burchard Park infield work was substantially completed on time on September 30th. Punch list items remain.
- Fall ornamental bed work continues. Pruning bushes, cutting back perennials, mulching beds, etc.
- Fields for fall HS/MS and youth sports were painted for soccer, football, and field hockey. 16 total fields were painted, now will be painted weekly.
- Field 11 was slice seeded on October 1.
- Large White Pine was removed from Alphabet Lane near the Memorial Pool entrance after it rubbed against power lines and caused a small fire on October 4th.
- Custom fertilizer was processed and delivered for all turf areas application in mid November.
- Field 1 ripple in the carpet from the constant rain this summer/fall was repaired under warranty on September 23rd + 27th.
- Fields at CS, FS, WS, Cherry Brook, Cznarowski, Burt were core aerated on October 6th.
- Fields- Alphabet, Brook School, Field 2-4 were core aerated on October 13th. Alphabet, Field 3 were swept clean of cores.
- Fields 6-14, Burchard Park were core aerated on October 14th.
- Town Staff has core aerated Town Green, Case Park, Public Library, Case House, Country School, and Field School lawns.

- Proctor Field TT was pumped on October 13th.
- Soccer wall on Field 13-14 boards replaced, supports added, painted.
- Had a demonstration of a robotic painter on October 5th and October 7th.
- Monitoring irrigation installation and turf establishment at Town Center project.
- Working on upgrading communications our irrigation controllers. Starting with 5 controllers with the most coverage issues. 3G cellular service is being discontinued and will be going to ethernet/wifi where possible and then 4G cellular. Proctor Field system has been complete, working as expected.
- Large planters for vehicle control in front of Field School and the Council of Aging were installed, currently working on plants for the fall. Coordinating with COA Director to have volunteers take care of future plantings.
- Fields Coordinator and Head Groundskeeper for Schools attended a workshop in Needham on October 13th.
- 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.