

## **ATHLETIC COURTS RESURFACING**

### ***Purpose***

To update, discuss and obtain approval of the Board of Selectmen for the resurfacing of two tennis courts.

### ***Background***

The Westwood Recreation Department (WRD), with input from key town and school departments, the Recreation Commission, and other stake holders, has prepared a capital project plan for resurfacing the town tennis courts at Downey, Sheehan and High Schools and the Morrison basketball court. Over the past year, the WRD has held community listening sessions and presented to the public various options to refurbish court surfaces and enhance tennis play opportunity in town. The proposal seeks to answer the call from town residents to protect our sport court infrastructure by investing funds necessary to ensure their longevity and safe playability.

The National Park and Recreation Association guidelines for tennis courts call for resurfacing every 10 years. Our courts are long overdue for this work and further delay could result in structural damage to an extent that the courts are unplayable and unreparable (requiring full depth reconstruction at considerably more expense). In particular the Sheehan courts have deteriorated to a level that they would need full depth reconstruction.

In addition to resurfacing work, WRD also examined court lighting options to extend playing time availability for those residents who work throughout the day and for the WHS team spring practice use. Lastly, WRD was asked to examine the replacement of the tennis court that was removed from Morrison Park for the new fire station and alternatives that might be considered.

### ***The immediate capital project proposal includes the following court projects:***

WHS/Downey court refurbishment - work includes all crack sealing, paint resurfacing, and relining which could be funded from the Antennae Lease Account.

- High School tennis court refurbishment, hitting wall installation, fence repairs (\$63,250)
- Downey School tennis court refurbishment and hitting wall installation (\$36,750)

These courts have been temporarily repaired over the past two seasons so they can be safe for play, but they really should be resurfaced before going through another winter and the end of August would be the best time of the year to take the courts offline.

### ***Proposed Action***

For the Board of Selectmen to approve DPW and Recreation Department to work with the School Department to have the High School and Downey Tennis courts resurfaced, hitting walls installed and repair fencing preferably in late August using funds from the antennae account.

### ***The longer term capital project proposal includes the following court projects:***

1. **Sheehan court redevelopment** – Since the work entails full depth excavation of courts, these courts are prime for consideration of alternative uses.
  - The public hearing indicated support for the reinstallation of 2 post-tension tennis courts with lining for 4 pickleball playing areas. Pickleball tennis is a form of tennis played by on a smaller court by all age groups, especially children and seniors.



- Sheehan court replacement, hitting wall installation, new fencing (\$250,000)
2. **WHS court lighting**
    - Install perimeter LED lighting for 6 tennis courts (\$306,750)

#### *Lighting details*

- WRD and Recreation Commission recommendation is to light 6 courts at WHS with light spillage mitigating downcast LED perimeter court lighting system.
- Light pole height between 40ft. and 50ft. 40ft. is the minimum height possible that allows poles to be seated outside of perimeter fencing. The higher the lights the more direct they can be turned toward the court surface which improves the quality of the lighting for play and the results in less spillage outside the court.

- The one concerned abutter will not be affected by the spillage of light at any of the proposed heights because of the density and height of trees between the courts and his home, but he will not support lights higher than 40 feet.
- This placement eliminates collision hazard (with interior poles) for players (school concern) and can be installed without trenching through the court surfaces. Trenching would significantly increase installation and ongoing maintenance costs and undermine the structural integrity of the playing surface and requiring more frequent resurfacing.
- Policies to be considered for adoption:
  - Court memberships: limiting lights to Westwood residents and their guests (fee vs. free)
  - Light control system: limiting whether and which courts are user operated (1<sup>st</sup> 3 courts vs. all 6) and install automatic shut off
  - Evening curfew time, season curfew
- Additional court availability (March 1- Nov. 31, based on lights on at sunset)

Curfew	Extra play time per court for season
9PM	520 hours
9:30PM	657 hours
10PM	794 hours

**Additional playing time per court per month**

	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sep	Oct	Nov
9PM	72h 45m	46h 30m	31h	19h	22h	38h	63h 30m	92h 30m	134h 30m
9:30PM	88h 15m	61h 30m	46h 30m	34h	37h 30m	53h 30m	78h 30m	108h	149h 30m
10PM	103h 45m	76h 30m	62h	49h	53h	69h	93h 30m	123h 30m	164h 30m

**3. Morrison Park**

The Town contracted a surveying company to assess possibility of installing replacement tennis court at Morrison Park on the third base side and also exploring alternative location (Hanlon School and School Street Playground) and alternative uses for the area on the third base side.

- The first plan entails demolishing auxiliary building and repositioning the basketball court to make room for the tennis court. This plan requires constructing a court over the MBTA easement. Reposition and rebuild basketball and tennis (auxiliary DPW structure demolished) would cost approximately - \$605,243
- The second and third plans do not replace the tennis court at Morrison but rather focus on maximizing available parking through building demolition. An alternative location for the tennis could be the Hanlon School or the

School Street Playground (the least preferred by the Recreation Commission because it requires the elimination of the T-Ball field).

One option is to retain the shed and add 12 parking spaces and lighting approx. (auxiliary DPW structure stays) - \$255,713

Another option is to demolish the shed and add 21 parking spaces and lighting (auxiliary DPW structure demolished) - \$409,275

Each option would require Refurbish basketball court, fence replacement (\$45,000)

If replacing the tennis court in the Construct a new tennis court at Hanlon School (\$120,000)

- The Recreation Commission reviewed the proposed plans. Their deliberations led to a consensus recommendation to forgo development of a tennis court at this site. They recommend lighting the WHS courts to increase tennis availability and to refurbish the Morrison basketball court and fencing at a cost of \$44,000. The Commission feels that adding a tennis court would negatively impact the park user experience and further limit the parking available for users.

***Proposed Action***

For the selectmen to give feedback at or after the meeting on each of the longer term issues described above.