

Minutes

Deerfield School Field Redevelopment Subcommittee Meeting 4/22/2015

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm in the Champagne Meeting Room, Carby Street.

Subcommittee members in attendance: Nicole Banks, Mike Griffin, Jan Parr, Joyce Cannon, Todd Korchin, Brendan Ryan Absent: Dave Reilly, Ken Aries

Also attending: Mike Jaillet, Town Administrator, WYS representatives Christa Fahey and Tom Alessi

Minutes: After review, Brendan motioned to approve the Minutes of January 14 meeting, motion was seconded by Mike and unanimously approved.

Design plan updates

The design received Planning Board approval on April 7.

Still awaiting approval by the Conservation Commission - scheduled review of the plan at May 13th meeting.

Project Timeline

BETA has provided a draft timeline for the construction process. Pending approvals and permitting as scheduled, the anticipated construction phase will begin in August and wrap up by the end of October.

Review of Field Design

Westwood Youth Softball asked to have the Subcommittee reconsider the design plan which includes a third softball diamond. They have increased their participant numbers for the current year by 16% over 2014 and added two league teams this year. They are willing to eliminate the backstop and benches in the middle field to allow for other sport group use (ie. soccer). They currently report that they have 7 Gr 1 / 2 teams using the Deerfield space. They would also request that the infield for any and all diamond be skinned not grass and no mounds. On a small field the dimensions required are as follows: base path 50' and 35' to the rubber.

Todd expressed the Subcommittee's intent to try to accommodate all sports programs with limited space available and the commitment to provide high quality field space at Deerfield. The shortage of fields is town-wide. Nicole mentioned the possibility of additional access at Westwood Lodge and the potential for new field space in town to help alleviate the on-going need for more field access by youth leagues. The point was raised regarding youth leagues having preference for access over adult leagues. Roche Field and the additional use of Deerfield on Fridays and weekends were suggested as options for softball.

After hearing WYS's presentation, the Subcommittee still feels that the two softball diamond plan as adopted is in the best interests of the youth sports community. The Subcommittee discussed the importance of ensuring that the third softball diamond planning be complete so that the field can be installed immediately when and if the need is there. The changes proposed by WYS to the two fields being constructed are being incorporated into the design plans.

Next meeting: currently no next meeting planned.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Parr