

## Minutes

### Deerfield School Field Redevelopment Subcommittee Meeting 11/12/2014

Meeting convened in the Meeting Room at the Westwood Public Library at 7:00 pm.

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

**Introductions** Nicole welcomed the neighbors, abutters and other stakeholders who joined the subcommittee at the meeting. After a brief project overview, the floor was opened for questions and input from the audience.

Discussion of the potential for an artificial turf surface was raised, not practical due to cost. The question of lights at the field was also raised and answered that no lights are planned for the fields at Deerfield. Several residents along Gay Street expressed concern regarding drainage. Todd Korchin, DPW Director, spoke to this issue and indicated that the new field design will address drainage and the plan would include proper grading to insure that the field sheds water evenly. Is there a way to connect the run-off to main storm drains? Some discussion of a swale to shunt the water away from backyards and towards storm drains. Also, Gay Street abutters expressed their preference that existing natural screen of trees and bushes along the edge of the field be maintained and possibly augmented. The possibility of fencing along some portions of the field edges was also discussed.

Randy Collins of BETA shared a few preliminary design options. The current use by youth sports groups is soccer in the spring and fall and girls softball in the spring. Josh Baumer, Principal at Deerfield, asked about the timeline for construction and the impact that will have for the school use for gym class and recess. Also, the school evacuation plan utilizes the field, so that will need to be considered. Ken Aries also pointed out that the school will need access to some equipment storage areas throughout the construction process.

Several of the designs include relocating the walking path from the school to the library that currently cuts directly through the fields. Some residents expressed their belief that school users will continue to use that route even if the plan includes re-designing the pathway to the perimeter of the field. It was suggested that the walking path not be paved but rather be made of crushed stone or gravel.

The warrant article and the funding were also discussed and residents are encouraged to attend the Special Town Meeting to support the field upgrade project.

Minutes: After review, Brendan motioned to accept the Minutes of Oct 29 meeting, seconded by Ken. Unanimously accepted.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. Next meeting scheduled for Dec 3.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Parr