



Town of Sudbury

Community Preservation Committee

cpc@sudbury.ma.us

Flynn Building
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-639-3387
Fax: 978-639-3314

www.sudbury.ma.us/cpc

MINUTES

DECEMBER 2, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

Members Present: Chair Sherrill Cline, Vice Chair Ms. Lynne Remington, John Hincks, Mara Huston, Jean Nam, Jennifer Roberts, and Diana Warren

Members Absent: Dave Henkels and Anuraj Shah

Others Present: Director of Planning and Community Development Adam Duchesneau

At 7:03 PM, Ms. Cline called the meeting to order.

Public Hearing for Applications Submitted for May 2021 Annual Town Meeting

Ms. Cline opened the public hearing by reading the legal notice into the record.

Frank Feeley Fields Improvements

Park and Recreation Director Dennis Mannone, Kate Trainor from Sudbury Girls Softball, and Kate Marchand were in attendance to discuss the application with the Community Preservation Committee.

Mr. Mannone provided an overview of the application which was requesting \$393,000 for Phase 1 of the proposed project. He explained the layout of the playing fields at Feeley Field as encompassing a tennis court, Upper Feeley, Lower Feeley #1 and #2, and a baseball diamond.

Mr. Mannone indicated Phase 1 would include the design for all phases of the project as well as addressing the safety needs at the park. He noted the Park and Recreation Commission had voted to use \$25,000 of the Meadow Walk recreation payment funds for this project. Mr. Mannone also stated Sudbury Girls Softball had committed to fundraising approximately \$7,000 to \$10,000 to put towards the project.

Mr. Mannone then explained the safety items which would be installed as part of the project including guardrails in front of the batting cage, adding netting to keep foul balls from entering the tennis courts, and roofs for the dugouts. Mr. Mannone added there would be a retaining wall to control the stormwater drainage issues at the site.

Mr. Mannone stated the design would cost \$95,000 and the construction for Upper Feeley would cost another \$148,000, which included the dugouts and the netting. He indicated the retaining wall, dugouts, and cages for Feeley #1 would cost \$150,000.

Mr. Mannone noted Phase 2 was estimated to cost \$645,000 which would include safety measures for Lower Feeley #2, drainage infrastructure, and an irrigation system. He indicated the drainage infrastructure at Feeley #1 and #2 totaled \$260,000, and reiterated design and safety were their top

priorities. He expected to have more details about the project and more exact construction figures after the design is completed. He expected that another application would be submitted to the Community Preservation Committee for Phase 2 funding.

Mr. Hincks wanted to make sure that the design would include drainage for Feeley #1 and #2. Mr. Mannone indicated that when the project went to bid, the drainage design would be a line item.

Ms. Trainor informed the Community Preservation Committee that Sudbury Girls Softball (SGS) was one of the three groups which used Feeley Fields. She noted Sudbury Girls Softball was a three-season sport. Ms. Trainor indicated the field supported 290-300 users from Sudbury Girls Softball. The men's league has roughly 200 players, and the women's league has roughly 75 players, and they play two seasons during the year. She noted the field was used six days a week in the spring, five days a week in the summer, and four to five days a week in the fall by the Sudbury Girls Softball.

Ms. Cline asked if there had been increased usage of Feeley Field and Ms. Trainor noted there was a lot of enthusiasm this year as softball was a safe social-distancing sport during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also anticipated growth in the program over the next few years. She reiterated the safety issues discussed by Mr. Mannone. She stated that the baseball fields were a great community resource for all the user groups.

Ms. Cline asked if all three fields were used for Sudbury Girls Softball and Ms. Trainor indicated that was correct.

Ms. Marchand, who had played in the Sudbury Women's Softball League for 21 years, noted that the Women's League was a vibrant three season user group. She reiterated the difficulties in scheduling because Feeley #2 was not in a playable condition for much of the spring season.

Ms. Nam asked if there was a possibility to use the fields at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. Ms. Trainor stated she had requested access to these fields in the summer but they were not available this year. There was then a discussion about the use of the school fields. None of them were ideal. The use of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School field was not predictable; the use of the elementary fields was not good because of the size of the diamonds and the uneven maintenance of the fields; and the three fields at Feeley was logistically convenient for families with multiple children in the program and coaches who coached more than one team. Again, the sense of community was emphasized.

Ms. Trainor stated that games had to be cancelled probably at least 5 days a year which impacted 15 teams. Often, the games could not be rescheduled which resulted in a loss to the children, but also to the parents who had paid fees for the full season.

Ms. Huston indicated the draft updated Master Plan noted Feeley Field was a high priority as one of the next recreational facilities to receive upgrades and has been a major priority for the user groups for at least 5 years.

Mr. Mannone confirmed that there was a 15% contingency built into the request in the Phase 1 application.

Ms. Remington asked Mr. Mannone if he had been to the Conservation Commission regarding the stormwater drainage discharging into the adjacent wetlands. Mr. Mannone indicated he had not been before the Conservation Commission yet, but was aware a filing would be needed and he was waiting on

the design to be more formalized before making such a filing. Ms. Remington suggested it would probably be helpful to meet with the Conservation Commission before the design for the fields was fully developed.

Mr. Mannone confirmed that there would not be significant maintenance required of the drainage system once installed.

SMILE Playground Surface Improvements

Mr. Mannone was in attendance to discuss the application with the Community Preservation Committee.

Mr. Mannone provided an overview of the application which was requesting \$230,000 to repair and replace the poured in place surfaces, add additional playground equipment, and to conduct additional site work. He explained the playground was heavily used all year round.

Mr. Mannone noted the wood fiber surface in one area would be replaced with a poured in place surface as the wood fiber was not ADA compliant. Mr. Mannone explained Area A and Area C would be brought up to grade with a new poured in place surface as well. He stated some wood fiber would remain at the playground to allow for access to the restroom cleanouts underground.

Mr. Mannone indicated the current poured in place surface was cracked from wear and tear as well as the tree roots underneath.

Mr. Mannone stated the request was now \$230,000 which included the 15% contingency. This was an increase from the initial application amount of \$175,038. Mr. Mannone explained that he is still investigating other funding sources, but was unsure whether or when they would materialize.

Ms. Nam asked which pieces of playground equipment were failing and Mr. Mannone indicated a slide and other components needed to be replaced. Additional playground equipment would be added as well as picnic tables. There was a discussion about what equipment would be placed in the area with wood fiber which is an inaccessible surface.

Ms. Cline noted a main tree in the center of the playground would be cut and replaced with an artificial shade structure. She asked why the tree could not be saved. Mr. Mannone stated the tree within the playground had to be removed. He had spoken with an arborist and they were putting together some scenarios to save the trees outside the fence, but it would most likely be quite costly.

Mr. Hincks felt the cost of work on the trees outside the fence should be broken out separately from the playground alterations. The removal of those trees is not in the budget submitted by the applicant because those trees would be removed by the Department of Public Works. Therefore, they could be removed at any time. There was discussion regarding the possibility of planting something that would not disrupt the poured in place surface. It was felt that a plan should be developed for these trees.

Ms. Roberts asked how long the playground equipment lasted compared to the poured in place surface. Mr. Mannone noted that when Little Tykes was out at the site they stated the equipment was in pretty good shape and possibly would get another 10 years of usage. In the event the equipment were to be replaced, the poured in place surface should be replaced as well, although a poured in place surface could be patched.

Ms. Cline asked about the longevity of the poured in place surface and Mr. Mannone stated it lasted for approximately 10 to 15 years, depending upon variables such as the weather and the amount of usage.

Ms. Cline inquired about the maintenance of the poured in place surface. Mr. Mannone stated it was relatively low maintenance. He indicated the Department of Public Works cleared the poured in place surface with backpack leaf blowers once a week.

Mr. Mannone will report to the Community Preservation Committee by January 6, 2021 on 3 issues: 1) whether any additional funds would be received for the proposed project; 2) what equipment would be placed in the area with the wood fiber; and 3) a quote from the arborist for preserving the trees outside the fence.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 10, 2020

Ms. Remington made a motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020 as amended. Mr. Hincks seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Cline – Aye, Ms. Remington – Aye, Mr. Hincks – Aye, Ms. Huston – Aye, Ms. Nam – Aye, Ms. Roberts – Aye, and Ms. Warren – Aye.

Discussion of January 18, 2017 Executive Session Minutes

Mr. Hincks made a motion to hold an Executive Session on December 16, 2020 to discuss the Executive Session Minutes from January 18, 2017. Ms. Warren seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Cline – Aye, Ms. Remington – Aye, Mr. Hincks – Aye, Ms. Huston – Abstain, Ms. Nam – Aye, Ms. Roberts – Aye, and Ms. Warren – Aye.

Ms. Huston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Remington seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Cline – Aye, Ms. Remington – Aye, Mr. Hincks – Aye, Ms. Huston – Aye, Ms. Nam – Aye, Ms. Roberts – Aye, and Ms. Warren – Aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.