

November 29, 2010
Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes

Present: Commissioners - Jim Marotta, Georgette Heerwagen, Dick Williamson Nancy McShea, Park and Recreation Director

Guests: Nancy Kimble, Girls Softball, Scott McGavick, Jeff Dade, Al Fiordani, Babe Ruth

Babe Ruth - Scott McGavick stated that Babe Ruth would like to add a 70 foot diamond to the Babe Ruth fields because it is a big leap for the little leaguers to jump from a 50 foot diamond to a 90ft diamond. This new league would be an intermittent step for the 13 year olds. They would need to adjust a field and the one they identified was the softball field at upper Feeley. The only adjustments would be to get a portable mound, the infield would need to be cut a little deeper, and the base length would have to be longer. They would need at least 8 slots a week on that field. They identified Feeley because they thought it still had a grass infield. The slots requested would be on the weekends and possibly some week days to practice. Scott said that if the practice time is not available on the 70ft field, the boys could practice on a different field. The real concern is to try to keep the kids playing. They find that many kids stop playing baseball after Little League. This shortened field would also benefit the better pitchers who have a tendency to hurt themselves by pitching too hard. Scott said Babe Ruth would probably need some help renovating the field, but if that isn't available they would pay an outside group to do it.

Girls Softball - Nancy Kimble presented the field request of Girls Softball. She stated that girls softball is changing its structure and will be more like the baseball structure. They are moving to a fast pitch organization and will open up a kindergarten level and also a 9th grade league for those that don't make the high school team, but want to keep playing. This will be a gradual process but will start in 2011. These changes will add more practice time so Nancy stated that Girls softball is not in favor of changing one of the fields to a 70ft baseball diamond. To change the field into another baseball diamond would be a disservice softball.

Parking Request - Nancy McShea stated she received a request from Sudbury Little League for permission to raffle off a seasonal parking spot at Featherland Field. This would be used in a fundraiser for Sudbury Little League. The Commission was not in favor of this request citing traffic congestion and they did not want to set a precedent. They were not even sure it was in their power to decide since it is town property.

Field Enterprise Fund – Nancy gave an update on the FY12 Field Enterprise Fund. She reported that 50% of the Park and Grounds Staff salary will be paid out of the Field Enterprise Fund the other half will continue to be paid out of the town budget.

Nancy proposed a \$15 dollar increase in the field permit for youth groups and stated that all adult groups would have to pay \$30 per person. Nancy explained that this would really only be a \$5 increase since the users groups would no longer have to pay the capital fee of \$10. She felt this increase would make sure the Field Enterprise Fund could cover the salaries and expense to maintain the fields.

Jim Marotta asked if Nancy was sure of the numbers, and she assured him she was and that she couldn't spend more than the revenue taken in the Fiscal Year. Jim was still concerned because he didn't see the back up for the numbers. Nancy explained how she arrived at the salary numbers with Bill Place and Asst. Town Manager.

The Commissioners reviewed the Field Maintenance hours showing how much time is spent preparing the fields for the use by the user groups.

A motion was made to vote on the proposed increase and a second was received. The motion was as follow;

The Park and Recreation Commission is in favor of amending the Field Permit Policy to increase the user fee from \$20 to \$35 dollars per user and have all adult groups pay \$30 dollars per person.

The vote was 2-0 in favor with 1 Commissioner abstaining.

Dick Williamson requested that more dog waste bags be place at Davis Field.

CPC-Melone Property – Nancy asked the user groups what their present and future needs. She reviewed the requests for the CPA proposal. It was reported that the Wagner property was still an issue and that part of the house had been condemned. The wetlands issues do not appear to be a big issue at this time. It is not clear if the cell phone complex is an issue at this time.

It was reported that John Drobinski asked if the CPA proposal was all about baseball. It was made clear that the proposal was more about a joint recreation complex serving a much wider audience than just baseball. It was also suggested that the presentation cover alternative physical layout on the property, an estimate of construction costs, and an estimate of ongoing finances (maintenance costs, and proposed revenue stream)

Nancy reported that the plan is for Gale to update the previous report and to position the proposal as a multiuse complex not just a baseball site. The CPC asked if Park and Recreation could go to the Friends of Park and Recreation to offset any funding. Nancy reported she didn't get a response from Paul, but didn't think we would get any money from them at this time based on the last Commission meeting.

New Business – Nancy reported that Maureen Valente would like a document that clarifies what we allow and don't allow on the fields.

Nancy reported that there is discussion on consolidating another Park and Recreation position between Sudbury and Wayland. There is a possibility the Program Coordinator in Wayland may retire within the year so there is some thought to consolidate that position with the Program Coordinator in Sudbury. No decision has been made at this time, it is just under review.

Discussion on meeting again in January, proposed dates will be emailed to the Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

