

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2013

Present: Commissioners- Dick Williamson, Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Tobj Gozdeck

Guests: Gale Associates, Sean Boyd and Eric Roise, Dan DePompei, resident

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

Minutes from September, October, and November approved.

Public Comment - Dan DePompei expressed his concern that CPA money was being requested for Rail Trail design phase under the Recreation umbrella. He felt that CPC is being leveraged for this use because it is convenient to use of the funds and it doesn't come out of the town budget. He was concerned with the wetlands and storm water regulations in Sudbury. He said it will be difficult for Mass DOT to meet the Sudbury regulations and they would be able to override them. He felt the Commissioners should be aware of this information since the request was being made under Recreation.

Jim Marotta stated it was a controversial issue and that he felt it went beyond Park and Recreation. He felt that the Park and Recreation Commission should only take a position on the Recreation side of the article and let the other Departments and Commissions deal with the wetlands issues. Dan stated that the Conservation Commission was very concerned about the wetlands issues.

Dick Williamson stated he disagreed with about half of what Dan presented to the Commissioners. Dan questioned Dick's potential conflict with being on the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and a member of the Park and Rec board which will vote in the use of CPA funds.

Gale Presentation - Sean and Eric presented updates to the Featherland and Davis design project. The current softball field at Featherland is being designed to be a 50/70 ft. diamond which will also be able to accommodate a softball field. The other field at upper Featherland will also be redesigned to be a 50/70ft diamond. This field will require more work because the dimensions of the current field layout will change. The softball field will not require as much reconstruction since the dimensions of the field itself won't change. The current septic and electrical building will have to be relocated.

Netting will be added to stop balls from going into the residential property behind the upper Featherland field.

Dick asked if the softball field would no longer be necessary once men's softball was relocated to perhaps TI Sales. Paul stated that the softball field at Featherland would still be necessary due to the use by the high school.

Concern was expressed due to the loss of the small baseball field at upper Featherland. Gale responded that Nancy and Bill Place were aware of this and also reviewed this plan with reps from little league.

Todj Gozdeck and Bobby Beagan stated they thought the design was going to include parking and a tennis court redesign. The representatives from Gale said that was not in their discussions with Nancy McShea and that she was working off the Master Plan.

Gale's proposal also includes new lights on both fields. This will require some zoning requirements since the upper Featherland field does not currently have lights.

Sean asked if Gale should continue with the design for Featherland as it is. Paul stated yes, but he suggested sending a PDF file of the design to Nancy and Bill Place. He also stated that Gale will get more input at the Jan 13th meeting.

The next step regarding the Featherland design is final grading and more detailed specifics for the permit and construction phase. There was some question on the timing of the projects and Paul stated that Featherland could possibly start this summer, but Davis would be later. Sean stated that the current Gale contract is based on both designs being done at the same time and going to permit at the same time. A delay in the Davis project might cause the project to become two separate projects.

Davis Field - Sean stated that design phase on Davis was not as far along as Featherland. They have been working with Bill Place and Nancy McShea, but were told to hold off on detailed schematics. They did look at what would fit at the site. A quick overview of the site shows that the parking lot will hold 100 cars, 2 multi-purpose rectangular fields, and 1 baseball diamond. This may change after input from the user groups and actual detail design work.

Gale will attend the Jan 13th meeting to listen to the user groups input.

Todj Gozdeck left the meeting at 7:30pm.

Rail Trail CPA Article - Dick gave a review of the history of the rail trail over the past years up to the current request to use CPA funds to design the trail in Sudbury.

Jim stated again he felt that the Recreation Commission should just vote on the Recreation complement of the issue. He felt that the Recreation issue was more about how the parking at Davis and other Recreation field sites might be compromised as a result of the rail trail.

Jim made a motion to support the CPC Article as drafted as long as the study allows for sufficient parking be allocated for both Rail Trail and Recreation fields when the trail abuts a Recreation site.

The motion received a second and was approved 4-0.

User Meeting - The Commissioners discussed the issue of non-residents speaking at the next meeting. Paul stated he didn't think it helped the radio flyers cause since the majority of people who spoke at the

meeting in November were non- residents and it was more important to hear from the residents of Sudbury.

Dick stated that his personal view was that any changes at Davis Field should accommodate the current users. Paul stated that the Radio Flyer group would be the most impacted by a redesign at Davis. Paul also stated that he would like to hear from the Radio Flyer group statistics on how often they fly, how often they want to fly and what timeframe would be acceptable to fly. He said he didn't think they would be able to just request to fly 365 days a year.

Misc – Jim Marotta followed up on the idea of installing lights at the lower turf fields at the LSRHS. He said that SYSA was interested and would take the lead on fund raising.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm