

Draft

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2013

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan

Guests: See attached list of attendees, Len Simon, BOS

Meeting started at 6:40pm.

Public Comment – John Flynn, Arlington, MA- stated he drives a great distance to fly planes and large lots of land are scarce. Stated we need to protect large open space because there is less and less of it.

Ellie Ingerman, 57 Windmill Drive, Sudbury, MA – representing Girl Scout Troop 72451 – presented a speech requesting to keep Davis open land space because many groups use the land and they don't want to lose the open recreation space. The Girl Scout troop collected many signatures from users of the field.

Bruce Schneider, Hudson, MA – stated he started flying planes over 30 years ago. He stated that Davis field offers an open field that allows for many uses, such as flying model planes, dog walking, sports, ultimate Frisbee, youth soccer, etc. It can be used for many purposes and is not limited due to specific field structures. It is used year round and by all ages. He did state that a lot of space, without permanent obstructions, is needed to fly model airplanes.

Elizabeth Ingerman, 57 Windmill Drive, Sudbury, MA – questioned the Commission on the plan for parking, traffic patterns, lights etc. Nancy responded that the Park and Recreation Commission is just in the beginning stages of plans for Davis Field and they didn't have answers to her questions at this time. Nancy asked the attendees to wait and see the plan since it is just in the beginning stages.

Sam Webb – 21 Windmill Drive, Sudbury, MA – a past member of the Conservation Commission stated Davis is a great open space and would like to see it remain that way. He was hopeful that other areas in town, such as the Melone Property, might be possible recreation property.

Lisa Turkington, Dakin Road, Sudbury, MA – stated that she would like to see the money spent on our existing fields instead of renovating Davis field. She stated the bleachers at Feeley field need work. She also stated that Davis is currently a low maintenance field and renovating it will increase the upkeep expenses on the field.

Marianne Walker, 19 Great Road, Sudbury, MA – stated she is dog walker and has two large dogs. Davis is a great area to walk dogs and she has met many of her good friends walking her dogs. It is a very safe area and all users of the fields get along well.

Nancy and the Commissioners stated no one is intending to stop the dog walkers from walking their dogs.

Anker Berg-Sonne, Stow, MA – stated Davis is a high use field. It is a good field for children who don't play sports, because they can walk dogs, watch the planes, hit golf balls, launch rockets etc.

Ava Guleseinan, 88 Ford Road, Sudbury, MA – stated there are many sports fields in town and questioned why we need more.

David Spielman, 66 Oak Street, Wellesley, MA – spoke on behalf of the Radio Control Flyers Group – he stated that it is a perfect location to fly the large planes and it brings in many users from all areas. A few times a year they have contests which bring in the best pilots to fly at Davis Field. He also stated that the field serves many demographics in town.

Joel Foner, 77 W. Central St, Natick, MA – stated the ability to teach youth how to build planes and then see them fly is a good thing. He likes to see the open field and stated not everything needs to be in a prepackaged space. He would like to see the field stay as an open space rather than a custom built field.

Greg Wenell, 75 Ivy Road, Wellesley, MA - stated that Wellesley had the same issue with Sprague field and they lost the field to renovation and a specialty field. He doesn't want to see the same thing happen to Davis field. Flying planes allows young kids to experiment with science and engineering.

Kate Niesland, Sudbury, MA – stated the field is a good use for ultimate Frisbee.

Dan Hayes, Powdermill Road, Sudbury, MA - stated Davis Field is a unique asset to the town, as shown by the number of non-residents attending the meeting.

Cathy Dill – Bike Share Program – Nancy reported that Cathy would not be attending the meeting because her plans for next year are up in the air.

CPC Update – Bobby B. reported that the CPC reviewed the proposals and will continue to review proposals at the next meeting on December 4th. Paul stated he received an email from Maureen that indicated they would discuss the use of CPC monies for the Rail Trail when they meet with the BOS on the land mitigation at TI-Sales Field. \$175,000 was requested for the Rail Trail under CPA – Recreation.

Cutting Scoreboard – Paul is still working on this and feels it will happen soon.

MOU with LSRHS – Nancy reported that nothing has changed.

Misc – Jim Marotta questioned what could be done with the side by side fields at LSRHS to utilize them more. He suggested putting lights on them and the possibility of getting some of the youth sports organizations to contribute to that idea. It was suggested that Jim speak with Nancy O’Neill to see what would be involved. Jim will make a few calls to see what type of interest there is in that idea.

Park and Recreation Budget – Nancy stated that she was working on the budget and would prepare a level funded budget for FY15. Paul asked about the Field Enterprise Fund. Nancy stated that the increase of salaries coming out of the Field Enterprise Fund is a major concern. Park and Recreation collects approximately \$200,000 per year from user groups. The current field permit fee is \$35 dollars and there is no plan to increase the fee at this time. The increase in salaries paid out of the Field Enterprise Fund will reduce the expenses that can be spent on the fields for maintenance and services.

Nancy reported that she met with Gale regarding the proposals for Davis and Featherland. They gave her two options for Featherland. Nancy also stated she had a good meeting with Mike Walsh, Little League. He liked the back to back field layout. Mike discussed with Nancy the possibility of financially assisting with the project at Featherland. Nancy will meet with Gale again on November 13th.

Nancy informed the Commissioners that they would have to write an article for the next Town meeting if they wanted to get additional funding for Davis and Featherland in FY15. The Commissioners agreed not to do anything at this time for the town warrant.

Bobby asked where exactly they were with Gale right now, since Nancy would be going out on leave.

1. Need to finish the wetlands flagging.
2. Bill Place for the field layout at Davis
3. Preliminary look as what use can be proposed for the fields.
4. Parking/Paving

Nancy told the Commissioners that Bill Place would be the contact while she was out.

Len Simon informed the Commissioners that he attended the meeting to hear what was going on and to inform them that he is the liaison from the BOS to the Park and Recreation Commission. He stated that with more Selectmen they should be able to get things done faster.

The Rail Trail/CPA under recreation was discussed and Mr. Simon responded that the town voted in 2012 to bring the Rail Trail to Sudbury. The questions also passed overwhelmingly at the town elections. The Selectmen heard that the town residents wanted to have the Rail Trail in Sudbury so they are moving ahead with it. He also stated that Park and Recreation is not necessarily the same as Recreation in regard to the CPA. There can be a recreation request that

does not come through Park and Recreation. Paul stated his concern was that there was only so much funding allocated for recreation in the CPA.

Len stated that he wanted to be educated on Park and Receptions needs and requests for CPA funds, but that the Rail Trail request was already in the process and the residents of Sudbury requested it. He also stated that the Rail Trail should be low maintenance for the town.

Nancy reported that Tim Goulding, the Atkinson Pool Director, had resigned and she was currently conducting interviews.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2013.