

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2014

Present: Commissioners- Dick Williamson, Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Mike Ensley, Bobby Beagan
Guests: Peter Soule, Carlo Lepordo, Al Fordiani, Mike Walsh, Mike Nobile, Lesley Feldman

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

Minutes from April were approved with corrections.

Nancy informed the Commission that she met with Len Noce and Bill Place regarding improvements at Feeley field. Len is coordinating the American Legion Baseball team and tournament this summer. He was asking for safety improvements at Feeley and help with facilitating a new scoreboard with Middlesex Bank. Nancy informed Len that she and Bill would look at the field safety requests, but other improvements that Len was requesting would be in his area for fundraising. In addition she informed him that the scoreboard would have to be accepted as a donation by the Selectmen. Paul stated he would contact Len to see what need to be done in regard to the scoreboard since he recently went through the process for the scoreboard at Cutting field.

Featherland Field – Nancy distributed an email from Maureen Valente which identified questions she would need answered by 5:00pm on Wednesday, May 14 in regard to the proposed donation from Youth Baseball for renovations at the current softball field at Featherland field. The questions in the email must be answered in order to get on the Board of Selectmen's May 20th agenda. It was agreed that all Commissioners will review the email and answer the questions to the best of their knowledge on the subject and send their answers to Nancy by Wednesday morning so she can compile them and respond to M. Valente.

Mike was presented the plan from Youth baseball that their gift of \$200,000 to renovate the existing softball field at Featherland is contingent on LS Youth Baseball receiving in return 1 ½ hour time slot each weekday, use on the weekend (except here existing men's softball leagues have been scheduled), and access to the field in the summer. The current agreement is that Youth baseball will be off the field by 6:45 during the week, so men's softball can begin their games at 7:00 in May, and off at 6:30 during the week in June, so men's softball will begin their games at 6:45pm. The LSRHS use will only go through May.

Carlo and Peter stated that men's softball was in agreement as long as the timeframes were followed. A memo with stating their agreement was distributed. Mike Walsh stated he had letters of agreement from Girls' softball and the LSRHS athletic director.

Nancy and the Commissioners took the time to ask Mike Walsh some of the questions in the email from Maureen. Mike did not see an increase in tournaments at this time, upper Featherland renovation should be kept in the plan at this time, there would be no change to the parking or tennis courts, and the time frame would be to start in September 2014 and have the field ready to go in spring of 2015.

Jim Marotta motion: To accept the LS Youth Baseball gift of \$200,000 for the renovation of Upper Featherland softball field as proposed in the Gale field plan, subject to the schedule, referenced in the letter from Men's softball, dated May 7th, 2014 and agreed to by Men's softball, Girls' softball, LSRHS, LS Youth Baseball, and all other existing users. The motion seconded by Ensley. Vote 5-0 in favor of motion.

Mike Walsh also indicated LS Youth baseballs interest in building 4 100ft diamonds in Sudbury. He asked the Commission for help in identify a location that would work. He stated both the town and youth baseball have spent a great deal of money on the elementary baseball fields, but due to the use and lack of irrigation the fields look like no work was every done on them. Playgrounds that get used every day are hard to maintain. Dick Williamson mentioned the Melone property has some land that isn't suitable for houses that might be an option.

Pickleball – Lesley Feldman asked to attend the meeting after speaking with Bobby Beagan to make a request of the Commission regarding Pickleball courts. Lesley stated she learned of the sport during her vacation in Florida and thought it would be a great idea to see if she could get some courts in Sudbury all the residents to have the chance to play the game. She described it as a mixture of tennis and table tennis. She is looking to see if the town would paint lines on some of the current tennis courts in town so residents could enjoy this sport.

Nancy said she would contact the Parks and Grounds department to see what their work schedule for the spring looked like and if this was something they could do or if it would have to be done by a vendor. She was also concerned with the condition of our current tennis courts. Another suggestion was to look at the existing basketball courts outside of the Fairbank Community Center and see if they could be lined for Pickleball in addition to basketball. Nancy stated she was not opposed to funding the Pickleball supplies and having it be a self-directed recreation sport similar to the snowshoe program.

Paul suggested that Lesley start a user group to generate more interest in the sport. Bobby Beagan also stated he would investigate the best way to go about getting materials for the sport. He will also check with the senior center to see if they still have the equipment that was used in the past.

New Commission Chairman – Jim Marotta was voted in as the chair for 2014-2015. 4-0

Capital Projects Update – nothing new to report at this time. Paul did state that there was some discussion that Park and Recreation should go to town meeting for an override at some point to fund the various improvements that might be required. (Field improvements, tennis courts, facilities for example) otherwise they will continue to have to go to CPC. Nancy mentioned that Park Grants might also be available and should be investigated.

Jim Marotta asked for the current status of TI-Sales field. It didn't appear that there had been any movement at this time.

It was suggested to meet in 2-3 weeks so a date of June 2, at 6:30 was agreed upon. Topics for the next agenda include options for Davis field, discuss stabilization fund for future field renovations at Cutting and the Community Field.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2014 at 6:30pm.