

Town of Sudbury  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 29, 2014

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Mike Ensley, Dick Williamson  
Guests: See attachment

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Paul Griffin, Mike Ensley, Dick Williamson

Jim Marotta gave an overview of why the Commission is proposing to develop/renovate Davis field. He discussed the Gale study and talked about the need for additional fields in town. He presented the Gale plan for 4 new little league fields, along with two rectangular playing fields.

Residents in attendance expressed concern about the noise and traffic issues on Route 117.

Berne Webb asked if there were plans for lights at Davis Field. Paul G. responded not at this time, but didn't rule out the possibility in the future.

Joe LaFerrea, Windmill Drive, expressed concerns about having fields in town for general use, rather which specified for baseball, lacrosse etc. He also expressed concerns about sports teams monopolizing the fields in town, and was disappointed the public meeting wasn't better advertised.

Pat Mele expressed concern about the increased traffic and also asked why the need for more fields.

Paul stated that more kids are playing multiple sports

Joe LaFerrea asked if the Commission had looked at other fields to develop and stated he felt the Commission only listened to youth sports needs and developed a plan based on that.

Liz Darley, thunder Road, appreciated that the Commission had listened to the residents in developing the plan, but felt Davis field had been changed too much.

Many residents asked about the Melone Property and if that land had been looked at for fields.

Len Simon, Board of Selectmen, stated that no decision had been made on the Melone property at this time, He stated that traffic would still be a problem with Melone and parking at Windmill may not be an issue. He stated that decisions on Melone might be 1-2 years away, and the cost to develop Melone as a recreation area would be much more expensive.

Paul G. made it clear to the attendees that Gale is a firm hired to design the plan for the field but the Commission decides what plan to present. He stated that the commission rejected 3 plans that Gale designed.

Kirsten Roopenian, Harness Lane, pointed out to the Commission that many residents purchase their hay from Earl Meader who hays Davis field. She was concerned that the area that is hayed would be reduced or impacted in some way by the development of Davis. Amy Robinson seconded the concern for local hay and its use and affordable cost to the residents of Sudbury. The current plan appears to reduce the hay area.

The Commission pointed out that there were still many steps to go through, along with funding sources, along with an environmental impact study.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.