

## **DRAFT**

Town of Sudbury  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2014

Present: Commissioners- Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Bobby Beagan, Mike Ensley, Dick Williamson  
Guests: Jen Barmasian, Bob Lee

Meeting started at 6:30pm.

**Public Comment:** None

**Upper Featherland Improvements Update** – Poles are in for the new fence, work has been done on the backstop, the renovated field will have two home plates with moveable pitching mounds, bases will also be able to be moved to allow for softball and baseball play. Commissioners discussed Sudbury Baseball's guaranteed slot in the spring which was part of the contract between Sudbury Baseball and the Town for development of the Featherland softball field. It was thought the slot was no longer guaranteed since the contract was cancelled and the money was returned to Little League. Paul G. didn't think this would be an issue moving forward. Mike Ensley stated he would check with Mike Walsh to make sure everyone was on the same page.

**Hockey Rink Update** – Commissioners discussed relocation of the proposed hockey rink from the outfield of the Featherland Softball field to the Fairbank Community Center next to the Atkinson Pool. The Commissioners were not pleased with the proposed move, but were aware of Maureen Valente's concerns regarding liability and potential damage to the outfield. The Commissioners were informed that the move was also due to water access issues and no easy storage or bathroom facilities. The proposed new location is on the sand volleyball court at Fairbank. The location is good because it already has lights, and the Atkinson Pool facility is open until 9:00pm. Parks and Grounds would remove the poles and grade the area so that it is level for the rink. A new pipe has to be installed for outdoor water access and it was unclear at this time who would pay that bill. Mike Ensley stated that SMS had already ordered the boarded hockey rink kit and was aware of the proposed move to the Fairbank Community Center. Mike Ensley stated he would follow up with Jeff LaPlante, of SMS. Paul stated he would follow-up with Nancy McShea.

**Cutting Lights Update** – Paul stated he met with Becky and John Cutting in regard to the proposed lights at Cutting. They are not in favor of installing lights at the field, but if the lights are eventually approved they requested that lights be directed only on the field as much as possible. They also expressed concern about the noise at night and early morning and asked that games be scheduled accordingly so abutters would not be disturbed during these hours. Paul also mentioned that the Conservation Dept. would still need to look at the light plan to see if there were any issues with turtles and their habitat. Paul assured the Cutting's their views along with the abutters would be considered as the plan moved forward.

**Davis Field/Gale Plans** – Jim M. stated that Gale has designed three plans for Davis, one new plan that was revised after the meeting with the Conservation Committee. The new plan moves the parking down closer to the four baseball fields. Gale is looking for the Park and Recreation Commission to decide which plan they will support so Gale can contact the other departments in town to see what else they

need to do to make the designed plan work and move forward. The Commission discussed the new plan and even though they thought parking close to the fields made sense recreationally, they felt it was a major shift from the plan presented at the public hearing. It was felt that the people who attended the meeting would not be in favor of the parking lot being moved because it would take up more open land. No vote was taken on the plan, but it was felt moving the parking lot down near the fields would cause many problems. The Commission would review further at the next Commission meeting.

**Field Turf Discussion** – Jen Barmasian spoke to the Commission on turf fields. She was concerned with the toxins and VOCs from the rubber used in turf fields and was concerned about the future health ailments. She feared many potential lawsuits against the Town and wondered if the Commission was aware of the health issues regarding turf fields. Paul G. asked if there were any alternatives to using rubber on the turf fields. Jen stated the cork/coconut pellets and rubber not from tires is being used instead on some of the turf fields.

Jim M. agreed that the Commission should stay on top of this research, but also stated he looked into it and found many studies that refute the findings that turf causes health ailments. He stated that some of the studies are funded by companies that have a stake in the results.

Bob Lee, youth soccer, stated he felt that people should take a look at the studies that can be found on the internet. The data is young, so he felt it was hard to come up with a definitive conclusion.

The pros and cons of turf fields were also discussed by the Commission.

Dan Deluise, Southborough, owner of a company that develops turf, stated there is no conclusive study on either side of the topic. The studies are incomplete at this time. He did discuss some of the alternative products with the Commission.

Jim M. thanked Jen B. for bringing this concern to the attention of the Commission and asked her to send him the links to the studies she was quoting so he can stay informed.

The next meeting was scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.