

DRAFT

Town of Sudbury
Park and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 24th, 2015

Present: Commissioners - Bobby Beagan, Paul Griffin, Jim Marotta, Mike Ensley, Dick Williamson;
Guests: Mike Walsh, Al Fiordiani, Sudbury Youth Baseball

Review of minutes July meeting. Minutes were approved 3-0. (Commissioners not at the last meeting abstained.)

Baseball Planning - Discussed Sudbury Youth Baseball's interest in taking the existing 60' baseball diamond at Upper Featherland and converting it to a 50' to 70' field. It would require taking down some trees and possibly the need to build a Fenway type wall in right field.

Dick asked if baseball had addressed the issue with the abutter on Morse Road, who has had issues with baseballs being hit into her farm land which then causes problems with her horses and cutting the grass. Mike assured Dick that the change in the field would not affect the abutter's property, but he addressed the concern and will continue to discuss it with coaches in the league.

Mike stated he was scheduled to meet with Sean, from Gale Associates, to discuss changes to the field. He thought home plate might need to be moved, along with the electrical box along left field. He also wanted to get an idea of the costs associated with the proposed changes.

Mike stated the 50-70 foot field conversion at the softball field at Featherland has been very successful. He said men's softball has been very happy with the changes to the field.

Jim Marotta expressed concern that the Codman residents may have an issue with a wall in the right field, since it is what they will see when they exit their street. Mike thought it would not be a big issue with trees and bushes in front of the wall. Mike stated he is also scheduled to meet with Bill Place on Thursday, August 27th to review changes to the fields. Jim suggested to Mike that he might want to meet with Bill Place first and put a meeting with Gale on hold for now. Mike agreed and stated he would plan to meet with Bill at 2:00pm on Thursday and Jim stated he would also try to attend.

The second idea Mike proposed to the Commissioners was the idea to use the existing tennis court space at Featherland and convert that into two 100ft baseball fields. These fields would be used for 1st and 2nd grade teams. They have measured the space and the fields will fit so they are just bringing it up as a discussion point and are looking into the costs. The costs may turn out to be prohibitive, but Mike wanted to bring it up for discussion before the Commissioners.

Bobby asked if the parking could handle the additional fields or would Nixon and the church lot have to be used for overflow parking. Mike stated they thought the parking was okay and will still be okay. He also did not think it would impact the high school kids who use Featherland to park during the school year. He did state they might have to put some netting up, but that isn't clear at this time.

Dick stated he had a number of calls from residents looking to rebuild the tennis courts. Bobby also stated that there was some interest in rebuilding two tennis courts and possible putting in a basketball court. He said the court at Haskell gets a great deal of use and putting a court in another area of town would be great.

Mike Ensley suggested possibly putting the tennis courts and basketball court at Noyes. He commented that only one baseball field is needed at that location.

Mike Walsh stated that he didn't think the trees along Concord Road would be impacted by construction of the two new fields.

Jim M. mentioned to Mike Walsh concerns he has heard about the new fence at the renovated softball field. The concerns are that it is too high and the fencing makes it difficult to watch a game. Mike responded that silver was chosen over black fencing due to cost, and the shiny silver should fade over time. Also the height is due to the safety concerns when the older kids play. There was some discussion on looking into reducing the height of the fence in the past the first base side of the field.

User Fees/Polices- Charles River Radio Flyers – Dick Williamson stated that his group is paying the \$5 dollars per participant jamboree fee. He stated that the Radio Flyers usage time has been reduced over the years. If soccer or other sports are using the fields they do not fly, this has been made clear to all the radio flyers.

Refund Policies/Summer Camp Refunds – postponed discussion until Nancy is at the meeting.

Lane/Dive Well Cancellation Policy – postponed discussion until Nancy is at the meeting.

Park and Rec- Committee Assignments - Commissioners discussed committee assignments and the Fairbank Task Force meetings. Discussion centered on concern that Recreation's needs were not being heard or represented at the Fairbank Task Force meetings. Jim W. stated he will provide an update at all future Park and Recreation Commission meetings. Dick will also send out a follow-up email to Commission members after each Task Force meeting. It was also stated that the Fairbank Task Force is still looking into relocating the Community Center across the street at Haskell Field.

Misc. – Paul stated that the FY17 Budget Planning will begin in October.

Mike Ensley stated he would like to look into a shed for the ice rink supplies. The shed would be located somewhere near the Atkinson Pool. Mike also stated it would be nice to get hot water to use when resurfacing the ice rink.

Bobby Beagan proposed the Park and Recreation Commission have a Facebook page to update activities, notices and link to the minutes. It was thought that the town already had that information even though it might not be in the easiest format. Bobby may contact the Town IT staff with additional questions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

