



**Town of Westport
Parks & Recreation**
WESTPORT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Longshore Club Park, 260 South Compo Road
Westport, CT 06880

February 28, 2019

The Westport Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Education held a joint meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 @7:38pm in the Town Hall auditorium.

Members Present:

Parks and Recreation Commission: Charles Haberstroh, Chairman; Karen Hess, Edward Iannone, Alec Stevens

Board of Education: Mark Mathias, Chairman; Karen Kleine, Candice Savin, Elaine Whitney

Members Absent:

Parks and Recreation Commission: Steve Axthelm

Board of Education: Vik Muktavaram, Neil Phillips, Jeannie Smith

Also Present:

Jennifer Fava, Parks & Recreation Director; Rick Giunta, Deputy Director

Dan Kroeber, Milone & MacBroom Engineer; Kevin Fuselier, Milone & MacBroom Landscape Architect, along with members from the public

Charles Haberstroh opened the meeting by introducing the Board of Education members and reviewing the agenda. Questions from the public will be limited to 3 minutes.

1. Synthetic Turf Fields and Staples Track Update (Discussion Only).

Jennifer Fava stated that this project consists of replacing four synthetic turf fields and one track. The fields are the Staples High School Track and Field, Ginny Parker Field, Wakeman B Field and the PJ Romano Field. To assist in accomplishing this project, a working group has been organized with representatives from the Town, Edward Iannone from the Parks and Recreation Commission, representatives from the school district, including the Athletic Director, as well as some citizen representation, along with P.A.L., and Westport Soccer. In 2018 the RTM passed an ordinance that disallowed the use of synthetic infill which included various types of rubber for new and replacement fields. The crumb rubber that we have in our fields today will not be allowed to be used in the future. The discussion tonight will be explaining the different options which are being considered. Bids have gone out and are due back this Friday, March 1. The Town hired Milone & MacBroom to assist us through this process. They will give a brief overview and this will be a discussion only, with no vote to be taken. There will be a number of additional meetings as we go through the process. Jennifer Fava turned the meeting over to Dan Kroeber and Keven Fuselier, from Milone & MacBroom.

Dan Kroeber introduced himself and Kevin Fuselier. Kevin Fuselier will discuss the materials and Dan Kroeber will discuss the general components of the project and the timing of the schedule. Dan Kroeber reviewed the condition of each of the four current synthetic turf fields and track, discussing the process of how each field and the track would be replaced and/or upgraded, along with alternate options that were included in the bid package. Next, he reviewed the three different types of synthetic grass options which

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could be used at the Staples Stadium, Wakeman B and PJ Romano fields. Because these fields are multi-purpose field, Milone and MacBroom is proposing that the UV-resistant dual polyethylene slit-film and monofilament fiber be used. They will be requesting pricing for the three different infill materials as well. These fields will also require a shockpad to be installed. The Ginny Parker field, which is preliminary a field hockey field and the girl's lacrosse field, is considered less of a contact field and therefore requires a different fiber, fiber height and may or may not require an infill. A shockpad could be used, or it could have a "poured-in-place E-Layer", based on the infill chosen.

Kevin Fuselier reviewed the pros and cons of the three different infill material options (Organic, TPE - Thermo Plastic Elastomer, Envirofill) for the Staples Stadium, Wakeman B and PJ Romano fields. He also discussed the infill material option for the Ginny Parker field, which would be silica sand or no infill, if the poured-in-place E-layer system was used. Next, he reviewed the shock pad material.

Kevin Fuselier moved the discussion to the track at Staples High School. This will be a full track reconstruction with a full pour polyurethane system, also called a BSS 1000. It is a high level competitive surface, with a shock absorbing cushion, and superior energy return.

Dan Kroeber reviewed the tentative schedule starting with the bids due back on March 1, 2019 through completion in the summer of 2020.

Jennifer Fava stated that the next meeting will be on March 13 with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Education. She also reminded everyone that these meetings, as well as the Board of Finance, RTM and Board of Selectmen meetings are open to the public and will be posted on the Town's calendar.

Charles Haberstroh stated that the Commission and the Board of Education will have an opportunity to ask questions, then the public will be allowed to ask questions.

Commissioner Questions/Comments: None

Board of Education Questions/Comments:

Karen Kleine asked if she could hear from Marty Lisevick about the goals of this project, and if there is any feedback from the students. Marty Lisevick, Athletic Director at Staples High School stated that the players and athletes have commented on the hardening of the fields over the years and the poor drainage. They also have increased worries regarding concussions and injuries if they keep playing on these fields. The Staples track is old and needs replacing, along with the perimeter fence. Marty also said that a tour to some of the local schools will be taking place and he plans on bringing some athletes with him to get their feedback.

Karen Kleine asked Marty Lisevick if the current fields are being watered. Mary Lisevick replied that they have not been watered, but has had discussions with Dan DeVito about portable water cannons. Karen Kleine asked if we owned any water cannons? Jennifer Fava stated that we currently do not own any, however, there are water hook-ups in the corners of all four of these fields. An examination of the water line coming into the field needs to be looked at to see if it meets the requirement to be hooked up to a water cannon. They have looked into purchasing, and could possibly buy one and transport it to the different fields. The estimated cost is between \$18,000 and \$20,000. This would need to be reviewed based on the type of infill chosen for the fields.

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Candice Savin asked if there was a way to evaluate the safety of the different synthetic turf as they relate to the players. Dan Kroeber, Engineer Milone & MacBroom replied that no matter which turf system is chosen, the G-max rating is guaranteed.

Elaine Whitney asked Marty Lisevick about the different usages and the lining of the stadium field. Marty Lisevick stated that there are a variety of different games that get played on this field and it's important to keep the game lines to a minimum so it doesn't get confusing.

Elaine Whitney asked about the soccer teams. Historically there has been an interest in playing on grass. Is that still the case? Marty Lisevick said that they will keep Loeffler as a grass field, but since they are the only team that has a grass field, are they putting themselves at a disadvantage? Marty said that when Wakeman B gets fixed, we will be in great shape, because if you have a rainy day, you will be able to practice at Wakeman B.

Elaine Whitney asked about the timing of the stadium field, since it is projected to be completed by the end of September? What is the backup plan for anyone who otherwise would be using the field? Marty Lisevick said that in the fall, the football teams and cross country teams use it. He said he has spoken with the football coaches and Laddie Lawrence to work through the schedule. Currently, there are two football games in September. They have arranged with Weston H.S. and Wilton H.S. to use their field, in the event the schedule runs late.

Edward Iannone asked if the new PJ Romano field will be lined for girls lacrosse? The answer was yes.

Karen Hess asked if all the infill options have a similar life span as Envirofill? Dan Kroeber stated that only the Envirofill offers the 16 year warranty.

Karen Hess asked Marty Lisevick about the walkway around the PJ Romano field and was there any thought on putting track material on it? Marty Lisevick said there was some thought to this, but price did enter the equation.

Charles Haberstroh talked about replacing the track and wanted to confirm that it does need to be replaced. Dan Kroeber stated that Milone & MacBroom did a good amount of geotechnical work on the track and performed 8 core samples through the track surface, along with inspecting the track. There are cracks in the surface material, there are spots where there are significant cracks in the asphalt base. Tracks last about 20 years, and based on the age of this track and the condition of it, it is recommended that it be completely rebuilt. It was also stated, that based on the age of the track, he did not believe a company would warranty a new track being placed on top of a 20 year old base.

Charles Haberstroh asked Laddie Lawrence, Track Coach for his opinion. Laddie Lawrence stated that the track has gotten great use with basically no maintenance. It developed some bubbles earlier on, probably due to the asphalt being too rich and wasn't cured enough before the top layer was installed. There are some significant cracks in places.

Elaine Whitney asked if we could have some flexibility in timing for the spring sports. Marty Lisevick said it wasn't a problem. Laddie Lawrence is already making plans to take kids over to neighboring schools to train, if needed. Plus, the Field House is available.

Candice Savin asked if there was an opportunity to break up the stadium project? Dan Kroeber stated that the track is the longer duration project. The thought is to get the track built as quickly as possible, and

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while it is curing, begin the field project. There really isn't any time savings in breaking up this project. It would also most likely cost more to do them separately.

Alec Stevens asked how do they work on the field, if the track is done first. Dan Kroeber stated that they build a bridge over the track to allow heavy equipment onto the field.

Public Questions/Comment:

Mitch Thaw, 53 Maple Avenue North asked if the G-Max remains the same on the three options during the season, especially when the weather gets colder. Kevin Fuselier stated that the G-Max, no matter what infill will feel firm in colder weather, however it does not affect the G-Max.

Mitch Thaw, 53 Maple Avenue North asked what would be the last day for the Board of Selectmen to approve the project? Dan Kroeber stated he is hoping it's sometime before the 2nd week of May. After the Board of Selectmen approves, a contract still needs to be signed by May 31st.

Mitch Thaw, 53 Maple Avenue North asked about the replacement of the goal posts at PJ Romano due to disrepair, but not replacing the ones at Staples as they were in good condition. At the last meeting, there was talk about replacing the goal posts at Staples and bringing those goal posts to the PJ Romano Field. Is that still being considered? Dan Kroeber said it has been taken into consideration.

Mitch Thaw, 53 Maple Avenue North asked if we could have all five of our games at home this year? Marty Lisevick replied that if they can't play our last two games at home, they would be able to use the Wilton or Weston as our "home" game field.

John Propotna, 230 North Avenue stated that the Trinity field was just redone and is beautiful. His daughter has played on "no infill" fields and loves it. Is there a benefit to the "no maintenance" with the no infill fields? Dan Kroeber stated that if this type of field is chosen, that people will be happy with it. In terms of maintenance, there is very little maintenance, you don't need to groom the field. However, the field does need to be watered.

Charlies Haberstroh asked if there would be a problem using extra water on the fields? Jennifer Fava stated that the fields are not watered at this time, and water usage would have to be considered if this type of field is considered.

Elaine Whitney asked that all the teams be considered when looking at the infills regarding the girls hockey and girls lacrosse. Jennifer Fava stated that this is part of the process, to ensure that all the teams are satisfied with the fields.

Karen Kleine asked who opens the bids? Jennifer Fava stated that as with all town projects, it is a public opening administered by the town.

2. To take such action as the meeting may determine to approve proposed Longshore Golf fees.

Jennifer Fava stated that the Longshore golf fees need to remain competitive with the area courses. The Longshore golf fees are typically on the lower side for our residents, but we need to make sure we cover our costs. The proposed fees were reviewed by the Golf Advisory Committee prior to being presented here, and it is believe that a \$2.00 rate increase across the board would be acceptable, with a few exceptions.

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Upon a motion by Edward Iannone, seconded by Alec Stevens, and passed unanimously it was

RESOLVED: that the Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed Longshore Golf fees as proposed with the following changes:

- Monday – Thursday, 18 Hole Adult Resident Golf Handpass Holder changed to \$29
- Fri, Sat, Sun & Holidays, 18 Hole Adult and Senior Citizen Golf Handpass Holders changed to \$31
- Twilight – Resident Golf Handpass Holder changed to \$24

Upon a motion by Karen Hess, seconded by Alec Stevens, the meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully,
Debbie Detmer, Recording Secretary