

WESTPORT RTM PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MAY 30, 2013

A meeting of the Westport RTM Parks & Recreation Committee was held, upon notice, on May 30, 2013 in the Westport Town Hall, Room 309. The meeting began at 8:30 p.m. and concluded at approximately 9:15 p.m. In attendance were William F. Meyer, Chair, Don Bergmann, Eileen Flug, Jack Klinge and Lyn Hogan. The meeting was conducted as part of a joint RTM Committee meeting among certain other RTM Committees. However, a quorum of the members of all of those other Committees was not present.

The meeting addressed a joint request by the Town and the Board of Education to authorize the expenditure of up to \$320,000 to re-do the six tennis courts at Staples High School. One half of this total, \$160,000 would be allocated to the Westport Board of Education, with the balance allocated to the Town. Dan DeVito, Operations Supervisor, Parks & Recreation Department, presented the matter to the Committee. In support of Mr. DeVito was Elaine Whitney, Chair of the Westport Board of Education and Nancy Harris, Assistant Superintendent, Business, the Westport School Administration.

Mr. DeVito reviewed the history of the present courts at Staples, noting when they were first constructed and the work to keep them in good condition. He advised that the courts now needed to be replaced due to surface issues, including some relevant to safety. He also commented on a drainage issue that would be addressed by the addition of a drainage system. Mr. DeVito also commented upon the amount to be authorized, \$320,000, how that was determined and his belief that \$320,000 was in all likelihood sufficient to complete the reconstruction. In response to a question, Mr. DeVito advised that the work should commence in July and be completed by Labor Day, 2013.

Committee members then spoke. Mr. Bergmann said he had visited the courts and concurred that the surfaces were in need of repair. Mr. Bergmann also commented upon an e mail he had sent to the Chair of the Committee and to the Parks & Recreation Department respecting his views concerning improvements to the bid and approval process, noting that he raised this at the meeting simply for the information of the Committee.

Jack Klinge advised of a recent conversation with some Staples tennis players and the strong views of those players that the present courts were in need of reconstruction. Additional discussion covered the nature of the surface, asphalt in order to comply with FCIAC standards, the fact that asphalt courts were relatively inexpensive to maintain, the fact that maintenance costs were paid for by the Town, but that the Town charged to the Schools as part of its "in kind" services charges an appropriate amount for maintenance and the fact that the new courts should have a useful life of over 20 years, though the expected warranty would probably be two years. Mr. DeVito also addressed the fact that he would be overseeing the work for both the Board of Education and the Town.

No one from the public commented.

Thereupon, upon motion duly made and seconded the Committee, by a unanimous vote of those in attendance, five to zero, recommend that the full RTM approve the appropriation of \$320,000.

Attending and Voting

William F. Meyer, Chair  
Don Bergmann, Reporter  
Eileen Lavigne Flug  
Lyn Hogan  
Jack Klinge

Absent

Catherine Calise  
David Floyd  
Paul Rossi  
John Suggs  
Christopher Urist