

HOPKINTON ATHLETIC FIELD SUB-COMMITTEE

Monday, October 17, 2016

7:00 PM

Hopkinton High School, Room A219

MINUTES

Sub-Committee Chair Dee King opened the meeting at 7:09 PM with the following present:

Members:

Also Present:

Dee King, Chair
Jean Bertschmann
Evan Bishop
Kelly DePaolo (arrived 8:20 pm)
Jon Graziano
Ed LeFlore
Dr. Cathy MacLeod
Amy Mick
Al Rogers
Jon Schwartz
Jim Vallis (absent)

Brian Herr, Board of Selectmen Liaison
Shahidul Mannan, Appropriations Liaison (absent)
Jessica Shea, Capital Improvements Liaison

Also Present: Connor Degan, Town Clerk

I. Call to Order

II. Swearing in of Sub-Committee

The Town Clerk attended the meeting to swear in the members of the sub-committee and explain the Open Meeting Law. A link to the Open Meeting Law and Ethics Training will be sent to all members for completion.

On a motion made by Jean Bertschmann, seconded by Cathy MacLeod, the sub-committee voted to elect Dee King as Chair.

Vote: Favor: 9 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 (Kelly DePaolo, Jim Vallis)

III. Public Comment

None at this meeting.

IV. Introductions, Working Norms and Meeting Schedule

Sub-committee members introduced themselves, and Dee King reviewed the charge of the sub-committee. The charge of the sub-committee is to develop a proposed athletic field master plan and make recommendations to the School Committee. The sub-committee set the following meeting dates:

October 24, 7 pm: Gale Feasibility Study Report
November 2, 7 pm: Warner/Larson Feasibility Study Report
November 7, 7 pm: Public Forum
November 16, 7 pm: Sub-Committee meeting
January 23, 7 pm: Public Forum

V. New Business

A. Project Overview

Dee King reviewed the project and tasks. The sub-committee will be responsible for recommending a comprehensive plan for all athletic fields, including natural turf and potential synthetic turf fields; usage; and maintenance. Usage for Hopkinton Middle School and High School teams, community usage, and potential revenue-generating rental usage will be planned.

B. Field Inventory

Dee King distributed a field map of the High School/Middle School/Hopkins campuses and reviewed the usage of each of the numbered fields.

C. Feasibility Study Preparation

The sub-committee generated the following questions to ask at each of the feasibility study presentations:

- Length of construction timelines; availability of firm to undertake project; options for using fields during construction.
- Parking and facilities (lighting/bathrooms/ADA access)
- Specific usage for fields vs. multipurpose usage.
- Organic vs. synthetic turf fields - differences in cost, maintenance, usage.
- Maintenance plans for turf fields (irrigation, replacement, plowing)
- Field boundary and grade issues.
- Where does the dirt get re-located to, and at what cost?
- How do weather conditions affect field readiness/preparations for weather anomalies?
- Does organic turf freeze?

Dee King will forward the engagement letters for Gale and Warner/Larson to the sub-committee.

D. Data Collection

The sub-committee will gather the following data, and assigned the following tasks:

Comparable District Facilities: Dee King, Jean Bertschmann, Kelly DePaola

HPS Usage Data: Dee King, Evan Bishop

Community Usage: Dee King, Amy Mick, Jon Schwartz

Potential Usage:

Community Partners: Jon Graziano, Jim Vallis

Costs and Revenue: Jon Graziano, Ed LeFlore

Natural Turf, Synthetic Turf: Ed LeFlore

An update on each data point will be presented at the November 16, 2016 sub-committee meeting.

E. Communications Strategies

The sub-committee discussed the following communications strategies: direct contact with abutters; public forums; survey; website (with FAQs); social media; stakeholder meetings (community sports groups, current and former athletes); press releases. Dee King, Evan Bishop, Jean Bertschmann and Jon Graziano were tasked with developing the format for the first public forum, to include a short presentation, topical questions/stations, and a summary of feedback gathered. The recommendation for the forum format will be presented at the November 2 meeting for the sub-committee’s approval. Jon Schwartz agreed to set up the website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

F. Other Suggestions

Brian Herr suggested investigating the cost and viability of re-grading field 3, but not replacing with with synthetic turf.

On a motion made by Jean Bertschmann, seconded by Amy Mick, the sub-committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Favor: 10 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Jim Vallis)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee King, Chair
Documents reviewed:

Field/Campus Map