

Lancaster Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes 11/21/16

Attendees:

- Recreation Director: Christa Duprey
- Recreation Committee Members: Johnna Doyle, Joe Kennedy, Winn Clark, Ted Manning, and, Jeanne Blauner, Katie O'Riorden
- Nathaniel Thayer Memorial Field Subcommittee: Elizabeth Cahill, Matt Hourihan
- Planning Director: Noreen Piazza
- Public: Ben Cahill, Sherry Cutler, Rose Omlor, Lynn Hudak, Kristen Phillips

Meeting Agenda:

- Public Comment Period
- Scheduled Appearances and Public Hearing
- Treasurer's Report
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
- Committee Updates

Meeting Summary:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Public Comment: No public comment

Scheduled Appearances: None

Treasurer's Report: None

Recreation Committee Update:

- Win gives an overview of the plan for the meeting.
- 2011 MRPC study: will email to groups.
- Address abutters' concerns for the park plan: Lighting, "Sports Complex", Trails/Woods/Buffers, Parking/Traffic

Lighting

- Original plan began with only safety lighting.
- A compromise would be to consider not putting lights on basketball courts.
- Christa says that field lights are on only when needed, not all the time.
- Elizabeth mentions that the lights might be a signal for players/families to leave field when the fields are closed.
- Kimball's lights are much taller than the proposed lights for the plan at Nathaniel Thayer Memorial Field.
- Matt stresses the benefits of lighting the Little League field.
- Not necessary to light utility field.

- Basketball court is used all the time; worth lighting.
 - Usage from early spring to late fall until 9pm.
- Johnna suggests running conduit to account for potential future lighting at fields.
- Plan still to include lighting basketball and tennis courts as well as safety lighting until 9pm.
- Safety lighting will be on all the time- 20 feet high.
- Jeanne asks cost of new field. Not able to address at this time.
- Runoff will slope to bottom left of area, left of the tennis courts.
- Basketball courts are used by neighborhood kids for riding and playing.
 - New trails can be for bike riding; not roller blading.
 - Current plan is for them to be a stone-dust material.
 - Can consider paving at a later date.

“Sports Complex” Concern

- Currently, you can only have two sports going at a time. With the new layout, still only two fields are able to be in use at a time.
- Abutters have expressed concern about a busy field like the one in Stow.
- Elizabeth remarks that the plan has only added non-sports related features: playground, walking trails, amphitheater, etc.
- The plan would be to rent out to local teams.
 - Concern from abutters is noise and activity.
 - We currently have the ability to rent out the fields in the same way that we would once fields are redone.
- Activity and parking is going to be moved away from the street.
- The new fields will likely be used more due to renovation, but it may be noticed less based on its organization.
- Need to research the possible field usage. Will determine how much Stow’s field is utilized.
- The fields need to be rented out to pay for their maintenance.
- Will determine the number of acres allotted and the number of acres to be used in the current plan.

Woods/Trails/Buffers

- Details need to be added back into the plan: patio, picnic tables, etc.
- Will consider walking trails through woodlands in top left corner.
- The current plan keeps tree lines surrounding fields.
- Elizabeth mentions that the buffer line with older trees only blocks view up high, not down low. Can consider planting shorter trees that would block the view from house height.
- The fields are not currently blocked from view from the surrounding homes.
- Abutters mentioned that the people of Lancaster like the natural forest area.
- Wetlands account for 1/3 of property.
- Make paths through woodlands for trail walking.
- Recreation Committee will reach out to conservation agent, David Koontz.

11/28/16

Parking/Traffic

- Consider making Packard St. a one- way street. One way in and one way out should make it easier to control traffic.
- Concern that one-way street might affect other abutters on the other side of the field.
- Change current one-way street back to a two-way street.
- The town conducts traffic counts in 4 areas each year. We can ask to have one of the areas be Packard St.

Plan moving forward

- Recreation Committee will meet with abutters before the next planning board meeting.
- Who are the abutters?
 - Everyone who lives 300 ft. from the perimeter of the whole property.

Meeting Adjourned: Win makes a motion to adjourn; Joe seconds. Meeting adjourned at 9:46pm.