

Parks and Recreations Committee
Monday, February 28, 2022

The Committee met online Zoom - Started at 4:02 PM

Members present: Cheryl Marshall, Sean Daly, Michael Coyne, Muffin Driscoll, Olga Hayes, and Karlee Blaisdell.

Minutes of January 2022 were reviewed and approved.

Turf Fields Replacement Update - MERSD: Pam & Avi from School:

Town and Parks committee were told that money had been set aside for fixing turf fields, as part of a longterm investment opportunity. Interest earned went into a “stabilization fund,” which this has caused a delay on when they would be able to do field work. The funds got tied up in school operations and keeping teachers. It will take a year minimum to get funding. When asked if it would be a fiscal year, determining that it would be fiscal 2025 (summer 2024) Actual cost of field around 1.2 million, with chance of potential additional work needed. Construction firms are booked up from backed up projects. No fund answers until early May. Fields keep being placed on the back burner of projects and being delayed, this has led to the fields being patchwork fixes without actually fixing the underlying problems. A need to look for alternative funding, including corporate sponsorship, was suggested by the committee. Superintendent Beaudoin commented that the possibility of corporate sponsorship would need to be vetted by the School Committee if someone or a group wanted to bring that option forward.

Also, the idea of recommending to the BOS that the maintenance and management of the Brook Street field be under the town umbrella vs the school district as continual maintenance and replacement plans have not been kept by the district and concerns of safety of the users of this field are mounting.

Pine Street: Cassidy Chroust:

Survey is currently under a delay. While looking at presented space for field we are aiming to keep excavation under 12 inches. In doing so a smaller field would need to be placed on the lot — 60 yards by 40 yards. With parking being planned as field is. Synthetic turf recommended.

Sweeney Park:

On hold until survey.

Chowder House Special Request:

Misery Challenge - A growing event and a repeat booking of the event in Manchester. Looking at potential extra costs the town takes on and build into the cost of rental.

Half Marathon-By-The-Sea:

5 am set up 7 am start time.

Meeting ended at 6:00 pm

Next meeting: - March 7th, 4 pm ZOOM.

Minutes taker for the next meeting: Karlee Blaisdell

Respectfully submitted by Karlee Blaisdell