

Committee for the Evaluation of Parks, Fields, and Recreational Areas
Minutes of August 23, 2016 Meeting
Medway Senior Center

Meeting brought to order at 7:05 PM

Committee Attendees: Rick D’Innocenzo, Ellen Hillery, Mike Francis, Paul Mahoney, Dave Travalini, Ross Rackliff, Cathy Morgan, David Blackwell and Mark Diebus.

Other Attendees: Michael Schrader, Allison Potter, Mike Coppinger, Ted Coppinger, Glenn Trindade, Tom Holder, and Michael Boynton.

The Chair, Dr. D’Innocenzo, brought the meeting to order and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. After introductions, Rick reviewed the purpose and charge of the newly-expanded group going forward.

Dr. D’Innocenzo turned the discussion to Michael Boynton, who discussed the history of the group, funding sources, and the current budget plan for improvements. He stressed the Town’s desire to leverage state funding and CPC as much as possible. The “legacy” EPFRAC members will be asked to vote on improvements to the Medway HS baseball fields. The expanded group’s charge will be to review potential improvements to the Middle School, Choate Park, Oakland Park, and the Cassidy Complex.

Mr. Boynton briefly reviewed the accelerated and extended time frames distributed at the meeting.

Dr. D’Innocenzo then reviewed the charges of the group in more detail and discussed the timelines.

The group will be expected to review the RFP, submissions from vendors, and then eventually award work to the best bid.

Mr. Boynton noted that everything is open to discussion, and that the current plan is to receive bids by October 21. Once bids are received, the committee is expected to review, rank and make recommendations before sealed bids are opened. After an award is made, contract negotiations are expected to take 1-2 weeks. The first meeting with the designer is expected in December.

There was a group discussion regarding the difference between an RFP and RFQ and whether the request being made is, in fact an RFP. The group then discussed the specific expectations, work, and responses from the bidders. The group discussed the original Master Plan (Phase II), which will be re-distributed to members after the meeting.

The discussion turned to the current Rte 109 project and the potential impact on any work done at Choate Park. It was noted that all known details regarding the Rte 109 project are available on-line.

Discussion again turned to the scope of the RFP and the distribution of the RFP.

Mr. Boynton suggested that the group provide comments on the RFP (send to him or Ms. Potter) for discussion at the September 1, 2016 meeting.

The discussion turned to Choate Pond, its current and historic use, and work done thereon to date. Attendees discussed whether it was possible to make it “swimmable” again. Mr. Boynton stated there are a number of health and environmental issues to consider and that a dredge study and dredging would need to be completed, which is prohibitively expensive in order to increase water flow needed to get the pond acceptable for swimming. Mr. Travalini noted that several options were discussed many years ago and that many of the actions taken in the past were ineffective. The group agreed that it would take extensive work and cost to bring the pond to acceptable levels of health and environmental acceptability.

The group turned its discussion to the proposed timelines, along with funding possibilities from the state of MA. Funding from the state focuses on ADA components. The state potentially can match Medway’s funding up to a certain amount. The group discussed the tight timeline and the impact on the potential Town’s appropriation of missing out on state funding. Mr. Boynton stated any appropriation asked for at Town Meeting would be for the full cost of any project, which would then be reduced by any state funds approved.

Dr. D’Innocenzo reviewed meeting protocols and called for election of new officers. The vote for Clerk was delayed until next meeting. Ross was nominated for Vice Chair, the nomination was seconded and approved unanimously by members.

The next meeting was set for September 1.

Mr. Boynton mentioned that the primary liaisons for the committee will be Tom Holder and Allison Potter.

The group decided to wait until Sept 20 to pursue one of the timelines (accelerated vs. extended) because of the similarities and deadlines of the two for the first several weeks.

Discussion again turned to Choate Park and the potential for construction of a “splash pad”. Nothing can or will be decided at this early stage, and everything is up for discussion and debate.

John Perry from Gale Associates arrived to discuss potential work at the HS baseball field. Rob Pearl has previously discussed priorities at the baseball fields with members of the committee, Town officials, and Gale. Those priorities, based on need and cost, are to 1) replace the existing backstop, and 2) construction of dugouts. In the future, Mr. Pearl would like to see the construction of a bullpen that is level and protects players warming up from batted balls, and the installation of a protected, level, and permanent batting cage.

Discussion ensued about the condition of the fields and funds available for work. A motion was made to pursue construction of a new backstop and dugouts. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Gale provided plans and drawings for the proposed equipment storage building to replace the existing metal containers between Hanlon Field and the baseball field. The group discussed the dimensions, features, suitability, and purpose of the building. A motion was made and seconded to pursue construction of the building. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.