



MEDWAY EPFRAC COMIITTEE MEETING
Medway High School, 88 Summer Street- Guidance Area
September 11, 2018 -7:00 pm

Committee Attendees: Robert Pearl, Debra Rossi, Lyle Core, Cathy Morgan, Michael Tudino (Parks), Cathy Morgan (Friends of Choate Park), David Travalini (Alt-CONCOM), David Blackwell (CONCOM), Kari MacLeod (Alt- Friends of Choate)

Other Attendees: Allison Potter, David D'Amico, Glen Trindade, Phil Fougere (Softball), Chris Culmartin (Softball), Allen Tingley (Softball), Tim Williamson (Soccer), Anthony Graeffa (Softball), Glenn Ratcliffe (Softball)

Absent Members: Dr. Richard D'Innocenzo, Mike Francis, Michael Schradner, Ellen Hillery, Julie Harrington

Mr. Trindade called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Mr. Trinidad stated that Dr. Richard D'Innocenzo, Chair was not able to make the meeting tonight.

1. Discussion –Future Priorities for Parks, Fields, and Recreational Areas- Focus on Youth Sports Needs

Mr. Trindade explained to the group why they have decided to fire up this committee again. He explained that they need to look at what is needed for future improvements and how to fund them. The Selectman determined that members of this committee should be part of the decision making process. For instance, Flag Football needs more lit playing spaces. How do we accomplish this? Do we just put more lights in at the middle school or should we light the back fields at the high school? Or is there a way to work with an outside group like the Scorpions. They are nomads, they have practices at so many different places and they would like to have one central location. Is there a way to do this? Could private groups finance the improvements to our play areas and our fields? Maybe this is a possibility. Mr. Trindade stated it would be a good idea to have a 4-6 hour workshop in the next month or so. They should have a projector with maps to look at all the play areas that are available. We should focus on what we really need and what is doable. Everyone should get a chance to offer their input and ideas. We should get Engineering assistance with us on this. Then this committee will decide where to go moving forward. Mr. Blackwell asked about the formation of EFRAC no engineering of turf fields. Mr. Trindade stated that was only for two years and it has expired. The EFRAC committee is a standing committee.

A discussion followed and the ideas and suggestions are listed below:

It might be better to light up the high school because there are less abutters to be disturbed than at the middle school. Should probably stay away from Idylbrook because access is limited. Maybe consider lighting up Oakland.

It was noted that the town has been doing a great job maintaining the fields but people were wondering about the 5-10 year plan. Mr. Trindade stated this depends on how we pay for it. There are 3 possible sources of funding- General fund money, free cash or CPC funding. He mentioned that Exelon will begin to pay their CPC funds which are about \$110k per year plus the match.

1 Mr. Trindade mentioned Ice Hockey and the possibility of building an ice rink, not a permanent indoor
2 one but a covered one. This would cost a little over a million dollars. Maybe we could get private funding
3 to help with this. Our kids would get priority ice time, first thing in morning and after school and we
4 could rent it out at other times. This could potentially bring in a lot of money.

5
6 Ms. Morgan asked if they would get a tax break on the land or what kind of deal would we offer them?
7 Mr. Trinidad stated he has to RVP it. Any club teams would have to be offered. We could offer them
8 certain playing times for the next 5 or 10 years. They would be getting one location for the next 5-10
9 years so they would be able to budget better and market this information. We could borrow a lot with
10 this money and not really impact the town's budget.

11
12 Mr. Tudino asked about using the Exelon money that will be coming in each year. Mr. Trindade stated
13 that the 3.8 million they will get from Exelon has already been committed to other things with a lot of it
14 going to schools, roads, sidewalks etc.

15
16 Mr. Travalini stated there are a lot of little kids in town and we have spent a lot of money on improving
17 parks and fields already. Do we still have the amount of children in Medway to be spending money on
18 these fields and lightening? Are there really that many hockey players in Medway. Mr. Trindade stated
19 that was a good point and these are the type of things that we need to look at more closely.

20
21 Ms. Morgan asked what the catalyst was for having this meeting tonight. Why the focus on parks and
22 fields. One member commented that Flag Football is really growing as they have five teams playing in
23 the fall and seven teams in the spring and at off times. They need more lightening. They do have
24 fundraisers but cannot raise money through tournaments because they only have two fields. It was
25 suggested that we should be thinking about multi use facilities instead of just one sport. Ms. Morgan
26 stated that some in- town teams feel that they lose kids to the club teams and she is not sure why but it is
27 very challenging as they pay a lot to play on club teams. One member said the competition is better at
28 club teams but they do cost more. He would prefer his kids play in town with the kids from their own
29 school. He would rather not drive a half hour out of town for practices. In town practices would be
30 much better. It was mentioned that the town of Bellingham has three small fields and holds tournaments.
31 Mr. Travalini stated someone has to start planning this and noted some of the available lands cannot be
32 used for recreational uses.

33
34 Mr. Trindade stated we have brought up a lot of good points but we aren't going to solve the problems
35 tonight. Whatever we do today will benefit future generations. If we continue to invest in the town then
36 our homes become that more valuable. We just need to figure out what we want to do and start working
37 towards that goal.

38
39 Mr. Blackwell asked about the 2 year article. Mr. Trindade stated Ms. Potter can provide that
40 information. Ms. Potter stated she would send the information to the committee members.

41
42 Mr. Williamson asked how we can prevent too much outside club usage like what happened before. Mr.
43 Trindade stated they did not envision the high demand and arguing that went on about the availability of
44 the fields. He stated this time they will go to each group and find out what their plans are. Tell them
45 what we have and ask if it is good enough. Everyone should be in agreement with where we want to go
46 and get everyone's buy in. Ms. Harrington stated she is putting together a priority list from the different
47 groups that should help. Mr. Williamson stated the fields are taking a beating, Oakland is sinking. It's
48 important to manage how you use them and allow for the grass to rest. This might have been overlooked

1 in the last process. Ms. Harrington stated if you look at the field schedules there are a lot of open spots
2 still available so they are able to rotate things around. It was noted that you need enough fields in order to
3 give them a rest. It was mentioned that if we have more fields that will require more maintenance which
4 also costs money that needs to be budgeted for as well. We need to look at funding and they do get more
5 money from outside groups so that is something to consider. Mr. Travalini stated it would be great to
6 build fields and rotate them but there is not any land available for new fields. We are stuck with the
7 footprints that we have now. Mr. Trindade mentioned there is a property at Oakland that was offered to
8 the town that is 1.5 acres and is landlocked. The problem with this property is it used to be a dump and
9 they can't purchase it without doing due diligence testing and analysis which can be expensive. Mr.
10 Trindade stated we have options. We have the land and parking and some are already level. There are a
11 lot of private groups that are interested and we should look at that more closely.

12 13 **2. Update- Parks Improvement Project**

14
15 Mr. D'Amico gave an update on both parks and stated they are on track to be completed by the second
16 week of October. He stated that one of the bigger things left to do is to liven up the electrical circuits.
17 The playground needs rubber surface and they are working on connecting the back fields. Oakland is
18 installing the electrical work. They still need to widen the entrance to the senior center. The tennis courts
19 are good; they just need to be painted and are waiting for the weather to clear. Some of the courts will
20 have pickle ball layouts. It was a 4.8 million dollar project and the bulk of it went to the playground
21 equipment, Argus and CBA Arcitech. We are currently about 100,000 under budget.

22 23 **3. Approval- Minutes (June 11, 2018)**

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25 No meeting minutes were approved at this meeting.

26 27 **4. Adjourn**

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29 *Mr. Tudino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion*
30 *and all were in favor.*

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32
33 Respectfully submitted by
34 Tracy Rozak

35 Recording Secretary ***Approved 12/4/19***