



MEDWAY EPFRAC COMIITTEE MEETING
Sanford Hall 155 Village Street, Medway
December 4, 2018 -7:00 pm

Committee Attendees: Dr. Richard D’Innocenzo, Robert Pearl, Debra Rossi, Lyle Core, David Travalini (Alt-CONCOM), David Blackwell (CONCOM), Kari MacLeod (Alt- Friends of Choate), Julie Harrington, Ellen Hillery

Other Attendees: Allison Potter, Glen Trindade, Preston Gales (Softball), Tim Williamson (Soccer), Jason Duquay (Baseball)

Absent Members: Cathy Morgan (Friends of Choate Park), David D’Amico, Mike Francis, Michael Schrader, Michael Tudino (Parks),

Mr. Trindade called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Mr. Trindade stated that Dr. D’Innocenzo, Chair was on his way to the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – The Minutes from the September 11, 2018 meeting were reviewed and changes were noted.

Mr. Blackwell motioned to approve the September 11, 2018 minutes as amended. Ms. Rossi seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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

Mr. Trindade explained to the group that the input from each program would help to determine needs and how to establish how to pay for them. Could Medway partner with other groups who are looking for space? Essentially those groups would pay for the improvements so that the Medway youth and Medway spaces will benefit from that income. Mr. Trindade asked for those present to think about the next things that should be completed and throw out some ideas to discuss. The GALE representative was present to give input and take ideas back to establish the costs involved.

Dr. D’Innocenzo arrive at 7:20pm. Upon his arrival he explained this meeting is to obtain a list of main priorities, there are no guarantees. The town is trying to put together a wish list.

A discussion followed and the ideas and suggestions are listed below by location with other comments following:

Medway Middle School

Mr. Pearl explained the Middle School field is not turf due to water issues. There are not enough “lanes” to host games and not enough parking. He explained more teams prefer turf vs. grass and Mr. Core explained club sports expect turf fields. Mr. Trindade explained the high school turf field took first phase, the lights at Charland have some longevity and suggested a permanent bubble on the practice field could be a year round option.

Mr. Gales (Softball) believes having a 3rd softball field in the Middle School complex would help their

1 program. Currently, they aren't able to hold tournaments, which could be a huge profit event for them.
2 Adding a field at upper Memorial or Center Street would be helpful to their program. Lights for softball
3 aren't as much of a priority at this point. The drainage issues were discussed as a huge issue for school
4 and sports events.

5 6 Oakland

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8 Ms. Rossi and Mr. Trindade explained Oakland is ready for lighting with conduit in place.

9
10 Mr. Trindade discussed the ability to acquire more land at Oakland to enlarge the space available to add
11 more fields. By adding another 11 v 11 field you could possibly make Oakland a soccer complex.

12 13 Idyllbrook

14
15 Mr. Williamson believes if lighting was to be installed at Idyllbrook, soccer could move there and open up
16 the Middle School to be the Flag football complex.

17 18 High School

19
20 Dr. D'Innocenzo talked about configuring the back fields with lighting. Mr. Pearl spoke to configuration
21 of fields in the back and it was determined lighting could be put in place on the perimeter to allow for
22 more field use.

23
24 Regarding baseball, Mr. Pearl explained there is enough space in the back fields to put another baseball
25 diamond and not take away from the field space they already have. The GALE representative explained
26 the cost of a new baseball diamond is \$750,000.

27 28 Cassidy

29
30 Cassidy is in good shape. They could use some parking upgrades as the parking lot is a bit ripped up, but
31 normal wear and tear. If the diamond at Idyllbrook were to be removed, upgrading the Center Street field
32 or changing the Middle School softball field to baseball would help the baseball program. Lights at the
33 High School field would also be beneficial. Ideally there is a space near the snack shack that MYB
34 would like to install a 20x50 shade pavilion and replace picnic tables to make a more inviting space for
35 families. Lighting the three fields has been a huge asset to the facility and very economical. Mr.
36 Duquay talked about the partnership between the town and Medway Youth Baseball. They have worked
37 together to accomplish the upgrades that have taken place at Cassidy. MYB sweat equity by parents and
38 fundraising will help to make walk ways ADA compliant and update the batting cages.

39 40 Medway VFW

41
42 Ms. Potter suggested putting a field at the VFW and having club teams play there. They have parking,
43 bathrooms and infrastructure. Ms. Harrington explained adult teams use that field but the income was
44 only \$5,000 last year. Mr. Duquay suggested based on the current status of the fields it might make
45 sense to repurpose it. The bare bones aren't really there.

46 47 General thoughts:

1 Mr. Williamson (soccer) believes going from grass to turf doesn't help the need for more fields. Soccer
2 believes more lighting on the existing fields will allow for more practice times. Soccer's preference is
3 one whole complex with storage at either. Presently Oakland and Idylbrook don't have enough field
4 space. Reconfiguration, leveling out playing surfaces and adding more fields and lights would help
5 either location. He would rather see spending funds on fixing what is currently available than adding turf
6 fields.

7
8 Lighting was discussed and noted that light levels can be changed for practices/games to reduce lighting
9 expenses. The GALE representative explained the higher the lights are placed the less spillage and less
10 impact on neighbors. The approximate cost for new lights on existing poles is \$20,000 per pole and a
11 new pole with fixture is \$60,000. This includes a 25- year warranty with monitoring system and repair
12 plan.

13
14 Ms. Harrington talked to rental income and expenses for the Town. There was approximately \$100,000
15 in income for field rental (primarily at the High School) with the largest expenses being electricity and
16 Ms. Harrington's salary. Mr. Trindade believes that bringing in more income could help to cover the
17 expense of improvements while helping to provide Medway kids better facilities.

18
19 Conversations regarding drainage, wet fields and resolving those issues were discussed on multiple
20 occasions. Mr. Travalini offered that Conservation Commission issues could be costly to resolve and
21 those issues should be considered when replacing with turf or renovating current fields with issues. Ms.
22 Rossi asked about drainage and adding trees to help drainage. The GALE representative explained
23 adding turf can help with drainage and fields can be re drained but there is expense involved. It was also
24 mentioned that turf fields are up and running faster, more expensive, and less maintenance expenses.

25
26 Grass fields need to rest. There needs to be additional fields to allow for the rotation of fields, which will
27 allow for resting. Mr. Trindade spoke to the benefit turf fields and the ability to use them anytime,
28 especially when lit. The GALE representative offered a football/soccer/LAX field is approximately \$1
29 Million to \$1.2 Million with lights.

30
31 Storage was discussed. Most organizations would like to see storage buildings or containers located at
32 the complexes. Options for container storage was discussed with Mr. Pearl offering suggestions he has
33 seen.

34
35 Dr. D'Innocenzo explained the Board of Selectmen wanted a list of needs to prioritize and obtain costs
36 involved. They may reach out to youth organizations to discuss how to achieve their goals. He
37 explained the town could deal with the larger projects and youth organizations deal with smaller projects.

38 39 **3. Adjourn**

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41 ***Ms. Rossi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion and***
42 ***all were in favor.***

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44
45 Respectfully submitted by
46 Wendy Harrington

47 Recording Secretary ***** Approved 2-26-19*****