



Town of Medway  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
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Meeting Summary  
Presentation at Select Board Meeting  
October 10, 2023 – 7:00 PM  
Sanford Hall  
155 Village Street

NOTE: The Finance Committee was invited to hear a presentation on the proposed replacement/repair of the track at Hanlon Athletic Field; it was **not** a joint meeting with the Select Board. An agenda was posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Law in the event that a quorum of Finance Committee members may be in attendance and specifying that a formal meeting would not be called to order. This, therefore, is a summary of the presentation and discussion that took place. A quorum of members was not present.

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Members Present: Brian Cowan, Chair, Ellen Hillery, Clerk; Bruce Carbone, and Jim Sullivan.

Staff Present: Michael Boynton, Town Manager; Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager; Peter Pelletier, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director, Carol Pratt, Finance Director; Barbara Saint Andre, Community and Economic Development Director; Sandra Johnston, Communications Director.

Others Present: Gale: Kathleen Hervol, Director of Athletics; Select Board: Glenn Trindade, Chair; Frank Rossi, Vice Chair; Todd Alessandri, Clerk; Dennis Crowley, Member; Parks Commission: Deb Rossi, Chair, John Farrell, Member, Rick D’Innocenzo, Member; School Committee: Cindy Sullivan, Chair, Melissa Greenfield, Vice-Chair; Armand Pires, School Superintendent; Mike Grennon, School Facilities Director, Pat Leonhardt, School Finance Director, Jeff Parcels, Athletics Director; David Travalini, Chair, Conservation Commission; Sarah Raposa, Vice Chair, Planning and Economic Development Board (PEDB).

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At 7:00 PM, Chairman Trindade called the meeting of the Select Board to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and reminded all to remember the number 19 which represents the number of Medway residents who died in service to our country.

Public Comments: There were none.

The Select Board next reviewed draft minutes from September 18, 2023. After review and suggested edits, the minutes were approved as amended with a 4-0-0 vote.

**Discussion: Update on Options for Infill and Carpet Replacement for Hanlon Turf & Track Project**  
*The Board reviewed a PowerPoint presentation from Gale.*

Present: Peter Pelletier, Director, Department of Public Works; Kathleen Hervol, Gale Associates, Director of Athletics and Project Manager.

Mr. Boynton noted Gale was awarded the contract for the replacement of both the turf and track. It is anticipated that the final design will be completed this winter, and that after approval, the project will go out to bid and resulting Annual Town Meeting action. When a contract is in place, construction can begin next year. Serious discussion surrounds available materials to use for fill since the current fill is nearing ten years old.

Ms. Hervol stated she is the project manager for this project. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, she reviewed the components of the turf field which include the turf fiber systems, infills, and shock pad or underlayment. The Q & A period following the presentation yielded the following results:

- The shock pad reduces concussions by providing a firmer feel with softer results.
- There are perceived health/safety concerns with crumb rubber as it gets very hot, prompting the need for irrigation to cool the fields.
- Alternative infills are more cost effective than in the past. Five infill options include cork, corkonut, walnut shells (Safeshell), and engineered wood (Brockfill). The downside to these is they need more maintenance with regular replenishing and watering, have issues with freezing, heavy flooding can damage the infill, and can cost \$50,000 to \$200,000 more along with \$100,000 for the shock pad. Connections are placed in the field to facilitate watering.
- There are no allergy issues with use of the walnut shells.
- There is no need to water the engineered wood (Brockfill).
- Crumb rubber lasts the longest of all the options; it is noted that it is the turf fibers that break down and 75% of the crumb rubber can be recycled.
- Plastic infill can also be recycled and lasts longer, but also has a much higher cost.
- Virgin rubber infill is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It is similar to crumb rubber, and is available in different colors, but is much more expensive and difficult to obtain.
- Thermo Plastic Elastomer (TPE) is also manmade, the color is cooler and maintenance is similar to crumb rubber. Poor quality TPE, however, can clump and melt. There are concerns about use relative to the petroleum base.
- Coated sand (Envirofill) is acrylic sand with a quartz core. It is very durable with decreased fly-up, and maintenance is similar to that of crumb rubber. It is firm, is preferred for small ball sports, has a warranty up to 16 years, and can be recycled. However, it is more abrasive and if the coating wears off, it becomes more abrasive and costs more.
- The cost analysis per square foot for each of the options ranged from \$4.75 for crumb rubber to \$7.25 for TPE.
- Standard maintenance is \$7,000 per year for each type.
- Shock pads have a 20-year warranty, installed right under the carpet on top of the stone base as the alternative infills do not have the same amount of "give".
- The value of adding a shock pad in conjunction with crumb rubber is that it increases safety.

- Fiber systems use a combination of dual fiber and split film as this works best for multiple sports.
- The largest issue with crumb rubber is that it has been around for years, and the quality has improved. Seventy-five percent of fields in this country today are still crumb rubber. It has been the most common infill installed in the last two or three years.
- The difference in cost lies in the type of infill used as the labor is the same; however, the labor cost is not typically included on the quote. Potential costs will be discussed at an upcoming design meeting.
- Crumb rubber will be the baseline cost analysis along with costs of alternative fill options.
- The total cost (including labor) is estimated \$750,000 - \$850,000 based on installations this past summer the cost includes the shock pad. Crumb rubber was used at 75% of recent installations.
- Shock pads are constructed of a composite film. The pads are tested and certified for various chemicals. There are no negatives associated with different types of pads, given the amount of recent rains.
- The overall estimated cost to replace the track and field is \$1 million - \$1.6 million.
- The contractor will determine if any of the existing crumb rubber can be reused. If completely new crumb rubber is used, the approximate time for completion is three to four months.
- Cost will vary depending on whether grass seed or sod is used as the drainage system would need to be rebuilt. A full growing season (if seed is used) will require that the field is not used until the following spring.
- Gale has tested the turf, infill and shock pad for per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAs), and the vendor is not allowed to ship these products to the site until the test results are delivered. Crumb rubber and Brockfill all came back as non-detectible, meaning it was too small to detect in the lab.
- Studies of the turf with the shock pad reveal a significant impact (decrease) in concussions. No school has removed crumb rubber and replaces it with grass. There has been no perceptible difference in soft tissue injuries between any of the types of infill.
- The School Committee had no questions.
- The natural color of cork provides for a cooler surface, and in order to keep it playable, a cork surface will require watering.
- Use of an infill other than crumb rubber will not require additional or different equipment.
- Natural materials will allow weed growth.
- The Town can reach out to other schools that have used alternative infill to obtain feedback before a decision is made. Ms. Hervol will provide a list of Athletic Directors.
- Next steps include (1) schematics hitting DPW's desk tomorrow, (2) finalizing the numbers by the end of November, and (3) by early December having the final numbers.

The presentation and discussion concluded at 7:58 PM.

The Select Board continued with its agenda.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanette Galliardt  
Night Board Secretary*