

Meeting Minutes

Parks Facilities Committee

1 June 2023

Members Present: Erin Palumbo, Pat Inderwish, Chair Jim Pedone, Gary Flynn, Marc Friedan

Guests Present: Jennifer Warren-Dyment, David Larson representing Warner Larson (WL), Neil Petersen, Marc Trudeau

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30pm by Pedone.

Motion to approve minutes. All in favor. Palumbo – yes, Inderwish – yes, Pedone – yes, Flynn – yes, Friedan - yes

Update from Public Hearing. Pedone provided an update on the hearing, stating PFC had agreed at the previous meeting to take down the trees. At the Public Hearing there were three objections filed. Town Administrator Warren-Dyment stated that filing objections means the issue will go before the Select Board on June 6th for a decision.

There followed a discussion regarding the removal of the trees with dissenting opinions. There was a request from Palumbo to Chair Pedone to allow for agenda item input from committee members at future meetings. Pedone will consider.

Next agenda item was brought forward. Warner Larson, represented by David Larson, spoke about the three proposed options to spend money secured by O'Day for Mixter Field improvement. The three options presented were

- Remove and dispose trees
- Remove & dispose existing backstop & fencing
- Professional services through permitting & 90% CD

A discussion again ensued regarding the available options and whether it would be feasible to spend the remaining portion of the first \$75K installment of the \$150K allotted by the earmark before the deadline of June 30th. The second \$75K will only be available when the work and receipts have been received from the first \$75K. West Boylston has received the first \$75K installment. Committee agreed that the funds were difficult to secure and should be treated as important and timely. Pedone believes it would be possible to spend the rest of first installment of the earmark using WL's three suggested items. Palumbo disagreed and suggested instead purchasing dirt that could be stored on site or purchased and held by a company. Palumbo indicated that cutting the trees down now, simply to ensure the funds are spent, could reflect negatively on the committee in the way that Pride Park was done. Pedone stated that the regulation softball field would be built and this is a necessary step given the location of the trees. Warren-Dyment stated there were insufficient funds to purchase all the dirt needed for a RFP because if dirt/gravel is available on the state bid list- then procurement-wise we could indeed purchase from the state bid list. However, if we wanted to purchase outside of the state bid list, we would have to follow the requirements for purchases over \$50,000. This requires sealed bids and notice of postings at least two weeks before bids are due. There would be a formal bid opening and bid evaluation. After that time, a bidder would be selected and we would get under contract. WL did not recommend purchasing dirt, stating it could affect the quality of the dirt or there might be a cost to storing and

transporting the dirt later. Palumbo stated this is a preferable and feasible option to cutting down trees to facilitate spending of the \$75K when the project is still in the early stages of design and development. Further discussion from Inderwish allowed that purchasing dirt in advance and having it held by the contractor was common practice and regularly done in construction. Flynn commented on the need to make sure that if we bought gravel on our own that who ever is general contractor could not come in and change the specs on what we bought.

Of the first installment of \$75K, \$16,750 has been spent. The remaining balance to be allocated and the work completed with receipts by June 30th is \$58,250.

Warren-Dyment read the earmark for the money which states “must be used for Mixter Field renovation.”

Warren-Dyment stated that WL had provided a recommendation to the Select Board via letter regarding the tree removal and therefore she did not feel WL needed to be present at the upcoming Select Board meeting. (see letter below)

Further updates from Warner Larson, see outline below.

Meeting adjourned 7:46 - All in favor. Palumbo – yes, Inderwish – yes, Pedone – yes, Flynn – yes, Friedan - yes

Next Meeting- June 15

Mixter Field Update Provided by Warner Larson

- NOI approved 5/8/23 and OOC issued 5/11/23
- Tree removal hearing
 - WL letter of explanation why trees need to be removed
 - Proposed fill will cause them to die off and become a safety hazard
 - Proposed plan to include ornamental tree replacements
- Cost estimate and project budget update
 - Path forward – prioritize bid alternates
- Schedule update
 - 90% CD's mid June
 - Expenditures prior to 6/30/23
 - Remove and dispose trees
 - Remove & dispose existing backstop & fencing
 - Professional services through permitting & 90% CD
 - Acquisition of new materials not recommended
 - Bid & Construction
 - Issue bid between early December 2023 or early January 2024
 - Product submittals completed during winter
 - Construction spring/summer 2024 for late August seeding and 3-month lawn establishment

- Final completion and closeout end of November 2024
- Coordination with Water Dept regarding irrigation POC location
 - Booster pump required due to anticipated 50psi at 2" water service
 - Irrigation consultant additional service \$2,000 for booster pump design approved via email 5/17
 - Irrigation controller was assumed to be solar/battery. Town wants 200A 240V service for future needs. Electrical design not included in fee.
- Coordination with WBMLP for electrical
 - Pole has been moved
 - Town's Electrical Engineer/Electrician to design power supply point of connection, to avoid additional fee
 - Bid documents will include the pad, conduit and enclosure per Town EE design
 - MLP will provide the wire, panel, meter and activation of the 200A 240V service Jon Fitch recommends

Letter from WL to Select Board

June 1, 2023

Mr. James Pedone, Chairman

West Boylston Parks Facilities Committee

140 Worcester Street

West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Re: Mixer Field tree removal

Dear Mr. Pedone:

We recommend removing the seven existing tall pine trees along the stonewall between Prescott Street and Mixer Field as their root systems will be buried by the proposed fill and drainage improvements for the field project. This will cause these trees to decline and become a safety hazard. Three of the seven trees are within the Prescott Street right of way, located along the edge of the stonewall.

The field improvements include :

1. Reorienting the field to reduce solar interference, increase usable field area and improve player safety
2. Raising the field elevation to improve drainage and field playability
3. Providing accessibility to the team and spectator areas

4. Planting new deciduous trees along the stonewall after the new fill is in place

The new team area on the first base side will be located directly beneath the canopy of two of the very tall pine trees, one of which is already showing signs of decline. The new backstop, fencing and netting proposed in this location would be at risk of damage from dropping branches or blowdowns.

This field project takes a long term perspective to provide a safe and accessible field that will perform well for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Warner Larson, Inc.

David Warner, ASLA

President



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