



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street
West Boylston, MA 01583
Pride Park ADA Update Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes April 20, 2021

Location - Zoom

Members Present - Rachael Brown, Becky Conway, Katie Denis, Lisa Thompson, Michael Kittredge, James Pedone, George Tignor,

Non-Board Members Present- Nancy Lucier and Michael Edwards

Members absent - Jason Ponticelli, Gary Kellaheer

Brought to order by Nancy Lucier at 7:00PM

Jim Pedone was voted in as Chair

Michael Kittredge Voted on a Vice Chair

Lisa Thompson voted in as Clerk

Jim Pedone reminds the committee about Open Meeting Law and the importance of communication coming through the Chair and no communication of committee members through emails, texts, etc. to follow Open Meeting Law

Jim Pedone Reads the order from Charlie Baker: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of West Boylston is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order

The committee discusses the plans by O'Brien and sons. There are questions about the red lines and blue lines and what they mean. George clarifies these are surfaces to safely walk on and play on, poured in place is the intent.

Jim asks if this means Red is poured in place, and blue is paths and everything else is grass and much.

Rachael expresses concerns about some areas being grass and mulch and the possibility of creating a "disability island."

Katies says the revised plans still do not comply with ADA and 521CMR.

Discussion ensues about the accessibility versus inclusivity

Discussion about going to bid. Nancy clarifies that we must get other bids. George says he will reach out to other vendors but thought it wise to meet with the committee first.

Discussion about the condition of the pavement on the basketball court. This needs to be looked at.

Katie brings up the complexity of bringing the grades up. Nancy says DPW will shoot all the grades and there will be an engineer to survey both playgrounds. Katie mentions ASTM standards.

Mike Edwards adds that we need an engineer to survey before we can know the grades. We need to look at the playground used by the school and the section always available to public as two different playgrounds. More discussion about the need for detailed survey and getting grades to work.

Jim says we have no budget for this, so we will be using CPC funds at this time.

Rachael brings up the transfer station replacing the rock wall. There is a discussion about how this may be ADA compliant, but is not very helpful for any child who can't get out of their wheelchair.

Discussion about replacing the entire playground versus upgrading it. Concerns expressed about the inclusivity of the playground, as well as concerns about getting funding from the town for a new playground. Nancy points out there is a line item for new equipment. Stuff could be added, but Jim opposes an entirely new playground.

Becky mentions a merry go round piece of equipment.

Lisa brings up the importance of inclusivity on the playground for all children, from typically developing children to children with autism and sensory issues, to children with physical disabilities. Inclusive playground allows all children in the school to have access to social, emotional, and physical development that all children need to grow and develop.

Jim is opposed to a new playground and says community members who helped build the playground have contacted him. The equipment is in good shape and should not be taken down. He says we need to be fiscally responsible and use the resources we have.

Becky says it is not a question of the condition of the playground but the fact that it is not accessible to all children.

More discussion on Accessible versus Inclusive.

Katie reiterates concerns the most recent plans still not being compliant.

Michael Kittredge says we want to be inclusive. Can we add more over time, in stages?

Katie brings up the hope that we can get the Disability Commission to pass at Town Meeting and if so, could advise on a phased approach. Also questioned keeping the old equipment and making upgrades and adding on may end up costing more in the long run?

Discussion around how much in CPC funds are available. Nancy talks about Town Meeting and how we can best get the community behind the project. We need a plan to present at Town Meeting that will be supported by the town so the playground can be open to all children in September.

Michael Kittredge says let's do all we can now to make it inclusive, knowing we can and will do more. Let's have a phased approach.

Nancy says we can apply for grants and do more over time.

Rachael asks about the timeline at this point.

Jim says Town Meeting is May 17th the Warrant will go out with Playground Update on it. Need to fill out CPC form a few weeks before the meeting.

Nancy said no figure has to go on the Warrant

Katie asks when do we need a figure?

Jim will ask Pat Crowley

Town Meeting will be outside. Someone on this committee will need to present the information at Town Meeting. We will need handouts since we can't do a screen presentation.

Becky asks about what kind of fundraising was done in the past.

Jim mentions if we fundraise or get grants, we can replenish CPC funds.

We need to decide what phase one will look like.

Katie bring up concerns about the grades on the existing equipment

Jim says we are hiring professional people to do this job and we will hold them accountable to do it right and make sure the we have proper grades.

Katies says parents will be watching too.

George will reach out to O'Brien and Sons to make sure they are at the next meeting.

Jim asks what is still not Compliant with ADA and CMR?

Katie: Structures: ADA, the poured in place not covering enough areas 521 CMR

Rachael talks about poured in place should be wherever there is mulch or sand now.

Michael Kittredge asks for catalogues and resources with inclusive equipment.

Talk about putting some trees in the sand area since the playground has very little shade.

Rachael asks about if the current swings that are for children with disabilities. She asks if the swings will get harnesses since they don't currently have any.

Plan the next meeting for April 27 at 6:00PM.

At next meeting we will review updated plans and pricing, O'Brien and Sons will attend, Katie suggests it may be a design meeting. Michael Kittredge asks for access to catalogues with inclusive playground equipment. Lisa and Rachael will send some links with ideas and information.

Michael Kittredge Motions the meeting adjourns, Jim Pedone Seconds the motions, all committee member vote yes.

Meeting adjourns 8:50PM

Next Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:00PP

Respectfully Submitted - Lisa M. Thompson