

Town of West Boylston  
120 Prescott Street  
West Boylston, MA 01583  
Pride Park ADA Update Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes April 27, 2021

**Location** - Zoom

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

**Non-Board Members Present**- Colin Boutin, Meghan O'Brien, and Michael Edwards

**Members absent** - Jason Ponticelli, Gary Kellaheer

Brought to order by Jim Pedone at 6:05

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

Minutes for the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be approved next meeting since the Chair just received the,

Update from committee members: Rachael went through the O'Brien catalogue and made a list for the committee's consideration. She also included a link about Inclusive vs Accessible. Access is about having access to the equipment and inclusive means kids can play in the space on the equipment together.

[Rachael's suggestions](#) included: The Cozy Dome, The Sensory Play Center Wall, Opti Gear Panel, Marble Panel, Double Ride Ramp, Deck to Deck Ramp (ramps preferred over transfer systems, as ramps are inclusive and transfer systems are not), We Go Swing, Molded Bucket Seat Swings with Harness, Sway Fun with 12 ft Ramp, Super Scoop Accessible, and Cycler. Rachael suggested there are more and maybe some better options in other catalogues.

Colin says he could send her an updated catalogue with more options. Colin suggests some musical options too for sensory.

Rachael would like to see more, and what is most important to her to have equipment that does not require transfer.

There is some discussion about various pieces of equipment.

The land survey cannot be discussed as Gary is not at the meeting.

Jim shares screen so Colin can walk us through the updated design. It does include a Cozy Dome.

Katie expresses concern about 521 CMR and having an accessible route around all the equipment. We need pathways to be 60 inches.

Meaghan and Katie discuss where the 60-inch rules may or may not apply and also talk about if a variance would be needed.

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There is a discussion about the amount of space that should be Pour in Place (PIP).

Rachael says her understanding from last meeting was that where there is mulch now, there will be PIP. She is disappointed to see this is still not the case. She brings up the frequent maintenance of mulch that will need to happen and inquires about the maintenance plan if mulch is used.

Katie says we talked about PIP for the whole area.

Colin says we cannot drill into PIP to add more equipment in the phased approach, so not idea to do all PIP

Jim and George say they did not think it would be all PIP.

Michael Edwards says PIP is expensive. Suggests PIP in all areas with equipment and concrete to make routes accessible rather than PIP. He suggests it's cheaper and makes the option of adding equipment more feasible.

Katie says we would need to check with MAAB about concrete as CMR51 is vague, so we would need to check with them.

Michael. says we desperately need the survey, so we know the grades we are dealing with. We need to also consider drainage issues. Like Jim says we need to have a figure that is passable at town meeting. To do all PIP may be too costly.

Jim asks if that would meet CMR.

Michael says I don't know how easy it is to get a variance.

Rachael asks what areas are not PIP.

Meaghan says we need to be thinking about trip hazards. We want to create accessibility and not trip hazards.

Jim: what other surfaces can we use?

Meaghan: According to MAAB, it must be firm, stable.

Michael the choices must be firm, stable and slip resistant. It could be mulch, could be crushed rock, concrete could be used in the surface around the playground. Unless Katie has information that I don't have, the surface around doesn't have rules about it.

Katie says Poured in place

Michael asks if around the area maybe we could use concrete?

Katie says we need to check on that We need to firm that up with MAAB first.

Michael asks Jim if we have a definitive timeline for when we need the budget.

Jim says he thinks by Town Meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

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George asks if the figure can be updated before the meeting.

Jim says we must go to CPC ahead of time.

George says we need information from the survey.

Michael says we need the survey. Elevation matter, and we need to know if we need to replace or upgrade based on the survey.

Jim says her was hoping Gary would be here to address this. He will take this up with Nancy and Gary in the morning.

Colin says all PIP will double the cost

Michael says it will limit what we can do in the future. Getting the survey is the clutch.

Becky says even though mulch meets the standard, concrete is better because it is impossible to get wheelchair through mulch.

Rachael agrees.

Katie says it is only stable if it is maintained. She asks if the school would be okay with concrete?

Jim says it's for traveling from one place to another.

Rachael says might help to have the rep from the school committee her to discuss.

Jim says we already have some asphalt in the playground. He says we know we need the survey. Jim asks with the addition of equipment are we meeting the needs.

George says all is based on the site survey. Once we have this from DPW we will know how much PIP we need and how much concrete.

Jim asks if the 2 new pieces are sufficient for the school needs on the school side.

Rachael asks about sensory.

Michael Kittredge joins.

Rachael asks if there can be a Cozy Dome on both sides.

Colin says that can be done

George asks if swings could be moved to cut down on PIP.

Jim says we want to make sure we can expand, have space to expand later.

Colin mentions wood fiber mulch in some places instead of PIP.

Katie says she can get information for everyone about wood fiber mulch. She asks who the engineer is to make sure the grades connect.

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Jim says DPW

Rachael brings up the uselessness of transfer station where they are planning to take out part of the existing structure and asks if we can look at ramps instead of transfer?

Colin says it is not in the plan and that we would need more space to have a ramp there.

Rachael says then don't bother taking that part out of the current playground to add the transfer station since it is useless.

Katie suggests a ramp somewhere else, doesn't have to be there.

Colin says he can send some ideas.

Jim asks if O'Brien and Sons have enough feedback for a final design.

Colin says it comes down to numbers and what people want.

Michael says the having the survey information will drive a lot of questions we have so we need that.

Rachael asks about thoughts about the sand. The accessible digger option?

Jim suggests this is something Colin can look at.

Colin clarifies we would need an offshoot to lead to a digger.

Jim says great idea to include in the plan so we can decide if we can afford it or not. Jim asks Colin how much time he would need once they get the survey information.

Colin says it should not take long once they get the survey and the grades.

The committee decided to meet again as soon as we can, which is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

Jim asked Michael Kittredge timeline to ask for CPC funds.

Kittredge says the sooner the better.

Jim says if we don't have the survey information by May 6<sup>th</sup>, we will cancel the meeting. We will approve minutes for both April 20 and April 27 at the next meeting.

Michael Kittredge motions to adjourn

Lisa seconds the motion

All committee members vote yea.

Meeting adjourns 7:41PM

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