

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

MORTENSEN COMMUNITY CENTER – ROMANO ROOM

- I. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM
- II. Roll Call – Members present: Jeff Hedberg, Pam Austin (left at 8:03 PM), Neal Forte (left at 8:03 PM), Jeff Perillo, and Don Woods. Others present: David Dickson and Kevin Fuselier, Milone and MacBroom; Bruce Till, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; and Jeff Baron, Director of Administrative Services.
- III. Approval of Minutes – No action taken.
- IV. Public Participation – None.
- V. Correspondence/Communications/Reports –Mr. Till distributed a Purchasing Guide article from Athletic Business Magazine on synthetic turf and a color GIS map of the Clem Lemire Sports Complex.
- VI. Old Business – Milone and MacBroom have been retained by the Town to assist the subcommittee and their representatives have investigated the history of the original field construction project with Town staff and developed two conceptual drawings.
- VII. New Business – Milone and MacBroom noted that more water will drain off the field with an artificial surface, and they need to determine where it will go. There is also a question of what is underneath the existing field. Four to six test pits will need to be dug to determine this. Early November was discussed as the best time to dig these, but a budget submission with solid numbers is needed for the Town's Capital Improvement Plan by the end of October.

Two concept drawings (A & B) were presented. Concept A had a field width of 195 feet and a fifteen foot run out area. It included 100,000 square feet of turf. It also included a perimeter fence, sidewalk, and two new bleachers. It retained the skate park and had parking both along the edge of the entrance road and double bay parking by Willard Avenue. It is believed that 120 parking spaces would be needed to accommodate this field. Mr. Till

underscored the need to focus on the field rather than on the parking. He also noted the need to accommodate future field lighting.

Concept B had a field that was 225 feet wide and would extend slightly into the hillside. This had an eight foot perimeter. This concept included turning the skate board park into a parking lot in order to accommodate a total of 300 parking spaces. This concept might need a retaining wall at one corner.

Milone and MacBroom was directed by consensus to estimate both concepts. Each estimate should include the field, fencing, sidewalks, pavement, lights and new bleachers, with each item broken out separately. The cost estimate will include bleachers that seat 600 people, with separate costs for increases in increments of 200 people. New bleachers would be Americans with Disabilities Act compatible. If it would save money, the engineer can include estimates that eliminate the current press box and replace it with a new press box on top of the bleachers.

The price differences for artificial surfaces are nominal. They range from \$4.75 to \$4.95 a square foot. The exception would be TPE, which is thermoplastic and sand, not rubber. It is more expensive but could be used if environmental considerations became a concern. Milone and MacBroom will draft an analysis of turf types for the next meeting.

It was recommended that the Town have a place to store the groomer for the field, which is an attachment for the back of a tractor. Mr. Hedberg asked Mr. Till to identify what other Towns receive for the rental of a field. The next meeting will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff Baron*

Jeff Baron  
Director of Administrative Services