

TOWN OF WAYLAND – RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation Commission/ Public Meeting Minutes

Posted in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 AT 7:00pm

Wayland Town Building | 41 Cochituate Road | Wayland MA 01778

Held in Large Hearing Room Live video broadcast by [WayCAM](#)

Present Commission: Asa Foster, Chair; Brud Wright, Heidi Seaborg, Frank Krasin
Recreation: Katherine Brenna

Absent Chris Fay

Presenters Weston & Sampson; Gene Bollinger, Cass Chroust, Mike Moonan
Marie Rudiman, Toxicologist

Guests Jeanne Downs, Heath Rollins, Julia Junghanns, Louis Jurist, Marty Antes, Annette Lewis, Cherry Karlson, Klaus Smigley, Sherre Greenbaum, Stephen McFarlan, Dorothy Dunlay, Nancy Peter, Bill Cossart, Bob Vizi, Tom Sciacca, Mary Kowalski, Bill Steinberg, Carol Plum, Resident at 20 Jeffery Rd, Derrick Todd, Jason Saslow, Linda Segal, Molly Upton, Susan Foster, John Todd, Terry Wong, Steve Correia, Ben Keefe, Reed Newton, John Taxichiari, Arthur Unobskey, Paul Nechipurenko, John Schuler

7:10 PM MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Asa Foster called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

7:10 PM PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dorothy Dunlay, 27 Sherman Bridge Road – I think we all agree that the Board of Health is the most qualified Board to make recommendations regarding Health, on the use of ground up tires in artificial fields. The BOH has recommended that the Town not use ground up tires in any new field. If the Rec Commission and School Committee do so, it would be a clear indication that unlike the BOH, they do not care about the well-being of student-athletes.

Bob Virzi 23 Garden Path

Involved in youth and adult sports, we are in dire need of new fields in town. We haven't put new fields in town in years. We went from top towns with top sets of fields, with field that are a disgrace, the only way to do it without taking a ton of space, is to install a turf. We have a huge benefit of passive recreation space in town, and we need to balance with active recreation.

John Schuler, 126 Old Connecticut Path, also representing the BOH

Louis Jurist – there are two questions, grass versus turf, and then what type of infill. There are other infill options.

- **Purpose of the Meeting**
 - Update on Strategic Plan
 - Pros and Cons of turf systems
- **How we got to where we are today (Gene Bollinger)**
 - Field shortage and critical deficit identified, fields are over used. Number of users is degrading the existing fields. Well documented, not really disputed.
- **Town-Wide Rec Facilities Strategic Plan**
 - Need to close the order of conditions
 - HS was expanded, another order of conditions in 2010, still open.
- **High School Master Plan (Cass Chroust)**
 - Quick overview of the draft
 - Existing fields and user groups, overlapping Baseball fields; Wetlands and the Rock appropriately named for their conditions, in Zone 1
 - New plan add a half acre of playable space, moves tennis courts to a more accessible area for public, and separates the two baseball fields.
 - Flipped the stadium stands to other side, create a storage area, that takes up playable space. 385x285, ½ acre bigger than today. W7S recommending a turf field at the stadium site to support the usage.
- **Synthetic Turf compared to Natural Grass (Mike Moonan)**
 - Native Soil Rootzone, prone to compaction, deteriorates quickly
 - Sand Based Rootzone, native soil mixed with sand, add drainage system, decreases compaction (variation with more sand, less soil, etc.) Changes need for water, maintenance, etc.
 - Synthetic Turf System, turf fibers at a certain length, and various options for infill. Infill used to hold down matting, and create a resilient surface.
 - Varying costs – installation/construction, maintenance, replacement
 - Varying levels of usage, life cycle, wear on the field
- **Natural Grass – varying levels of wear**
 - Grass – initial Cost, Playability limited by weather, higher maint. Costs, limited playing time, environmental impacts
 - Turf – higher initial cost, more playing time, less maint. Fewer injuries, potential heat hazards
 - **INFILL OPTIONS**
 - Rubber/Plastic, Natural/Organic/ Minerals or Coated Minerals
Rubbers that aren't old tires, heavy metals in trace amounts that are not releasable
 - Organic -some infills do require shock pads under the surface, increases the cost. Coconut blends, prone to migrating, may move with weather, require a shock pad, pesticides, heavy metals in trace amounts that are releasable
 - Minerals/Coated Minerals – longest life, less resiliency, harder surface, more abrasive, requires a shock pad

- **Discussing Community Concerns of Synthetic Turf (Marie Rudiman, Toxicologist)**
Weston & Sampson: Human Health Risk Assessor/Toxicologist, Northeastern University | Toxicology, 23 years of experience.
Focus on evaluating chemicals to determine if the cause an unacceptable/acceptable risk to human health using Federal EPA and STATE (DES/DEP) regulations and guidance.
RISK = Exposure x Toxicity

Bioavailability of crumb rubber, and chemicals in synthetic turf fields
Metals and PAHs in crumb rubber are within the matrix of the rubber. They are found in a lab, use solvents to pull out the metals in the crumb rubber, not technically bioavailable in dermal contact. Crumb Rubber Particles (CRP) comes from recycled tires. Analyze crumb rubber prior to installation for Metals, benzothiazole, PAHs, SVOCs, VOCs. Look at data to determine if risks are acceptable, ingestion, dermal contact, inhalation of chemicals that may volatilize, leaching into ground water,

In Weymouth and Weston study, used American Society for Testing and Materials for Safety of Toys, passed for all metals. Actually tested less than what was naturally found in the trace elements in natural soil.

Risks were negligible; ingest 100mg/kg crumb rubber on each day of exposure. Studied ages 1 through 31, over a 30 year exposure, used maximum concentrations, sub-chronic exposure and chronic exposure (3d/wk/30wk), dermal contact, ingestion.

- **Recommended Field Improvement**
 - Would replace current turf, eases town's critical rectangular field shortages, performs a high level of use, reduces impacts on already overburdened grass fields, maximizes periods of usage, drainage characteristics limit storm impacts to use.
 - Neighboring Communities with Synthetic Turf Fields: 32 of 38 surrounds towns have turf and crumb rubber

- **Open for Discussion**

1. Dorothy Dunlay,: Health Concern not addressed – heat hazard
Heat is a concern, synthetic turf field typically have warnings. Extreme heat conditions, limited play can be scheduled. Turf can be hosed down. Can opt to not program the turf in the day in summer months. Different infills have different heat impacts. Able to mitigate the heat risk, by hydration, and misting sidelines. Most usage happens in Spring and Fall, when School Athletics
2. Bill Steinberg – part of the HS Project is to move the field outside of the Well Area, impacting the cost. Gene – yes still part of the plan, we are not recommending capital improvements to Wetlands or the Rock in Zone 1. 3million dollars, roughly to redo the stadium and more cost associated with flipping those areas. We want to understand whether or not that's included. There is a premium associated with moving them, but don't recommended that to overlay the courts.
3. Jeanne Downs – adding clarity, the 2.9 mil that Gene is referring to, is to replace the HS facilities, includes to resurfacing the tennis courts, track & field, resurfacing tennis courts. Now its 5.4 mil, current project goes further, redo the track (not just resurface) and flips the tennis and the SB field to address the drainage issues, and they need to be redone. Can't just resurface the tennis courts again, and consider it fiscally responsible.

4. Resident – life expectancy of a turf field?
5. Mike Moonan: Depends on the surface you choose, requires maintained, and modification every 12-15 years. Synthetic turf fields, newer ones are projected to last 11-12 years. They warranty for 8 years.
6. Gene, current system will be in place for about 12-13 years by the time field is replaced.
7. Carol Plum – doesn't want well water to be contaminated in any way shape or form. What kind of monitoring and who monitors the water coming off the field. Want to be assured the wells won't be affected.
8. Gene - Facilities in place for many decades, regular and rigorous testing of drinking water in the vicinity of the existing fields. Test water in catch basin near the field. When are they doing the test, are they doing a range of tests. Wayland can define the testing. Weston tests for leaching quarterly.
9. Carol Plum – but not after a flood or a drought, etc.
10. Mike Moonan – typically collect water at the outlet of the field after the rainfall.
11. Tom Sciacca – not testing water, and we should be. A written plan may not matter. Asks for slide with 3 different turf approaches. Native Soil is involving 4 to 6 inches of soil, anyone that knows anything about grass, knows roots need to grow twice as long as the leaf, you need more than 6 inches, a foot preferably more. Can't see how you get to 2,000 hours, the heat info is not quite right, has to do with the altitude of the sun, not the air temperature. Shouldn't use before 4:00pm. Didn't include the costs of using alternative infills. There is a reason people choose crumb rubber, it's the cheapest. Feels the numbers are skewed toward using synthetic turf.
12. Gene – argue that fields are used throughout the school day with PE classes and events and then as soon as the bell rings until after dark.
13. Jon Schuler BOH – we discussed the health risks of these fields, we are responsible for the water supply, and pay special attention to Zone 1 and Zone 2, Zone 2 feeds Zone 1, and Zone one well water needs to be protected. Potential runoff into Zone 1 hasn't Arsenic and Zinc, haven't reflected in the well water. Monitoring wells near the turf now, but they've never been used. Recommend monitoring wells, to get accurate samples from any field that may be built there. The well water hasn't shown any ill effects after 10 years. If field is moving further away from the wells, we'd encourage. Something that hasn't been mentioned, a soccer coach in WA state, read a couple of stories of young/teen soccer girl players who has developed cancers, lymphomas, Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's. She noted these events, her own daughter, a goalie developed cancer too. She was able to identify nationally 60 adolescents who had developed these cancers. 80% of them were soccer goalies. Soccer goalies have much higher exposure to the infills. My 10 year old granddaughter is covered 6 days a week in crumb rubber. IN 2016, after many years the Federal government is trying to study the effects, if any, of crumb rubber. Nothing been proven, anecdotal, but Younger people are more susceptible. 20 carcinogens in crumb rubber, Arsenic and Cadmium in the turf fibers, the grass itself. It's unclear if there is a problem, if it's the fake grass or the infill. BOH recently Voted unanimously to not use crumb rubber, due to the lack of real data to sway science. Cork and Coconut shells are more expensive.
14. Frank – has there been a similar study done on natural fields to compare to? Would help create a baseline.
15. Schuler, BOH – haven't seen any reports.
16. Gene wouldn't even been here tonight if it weren't for the study in Washington.
17. Marie Rudiman (W&S) Dr. Schuler was talking about how her mother met another goalie while undergoing cancer treatments, and found a few other goalies that had cancer. Washington State, as a result, concerned that it was an issue in 2016, and conducted a study from 2009-2016. Investigated as many soccer players as they could. Found soccer players were less likely

to develop cancer than the general population. Soccer players were generally healthier than the general population.

18. Dr. Schuler – surrounding towns have these fields LA and NYC will no longer allow crumb rubber in municipal fields. Not scientific evidence, but concern.
19. Gene- cost is not insurmountable. 5 or 6mil project, the infill cost is more expensive, but not insurmountable.
20. Bob Virzi – 3 points
 - a. Temperature on the fields. We live in New England, not Arizona, it will usually work in our favor
 - b. To the comment that can't get 7x as much use out of turf compared to grass. Absolutely adds playing time in my experience.
 - c. With respect to anecdotal cancer stories – we have scientific evidence that childhood obesity have greater risks
21. Jurist – disappointed that town BOH made a blanket policy regulation on anecdotal and not on science. Given that you made that recommendation, do you have any comments on other fillers? We now have to go with infill that has less research, performance info, and data from other users.
22. Annette Lewis – Claypit Hill Questions: With regard to the Health Standards – inhalation was discounted, because there are certain standards, what kinds of standards are there.
23. Marie Rudiman – inhalation of particles, science behind probability of inhaling particles, DEP have ways to determine a particle will be inhaled, the size of the particle.
24. Annette - How do you know the particles don't deteriorate, create test.
25. Marie – take a look at these particles.
26. Annette- what standards?
27. Marie – CRP are stable, they don't crumble into smaller or inhalable particles. The CRP industry has determined an acceptable particle size that won't be inhalable to meet ASTM standards. Will info be available?
28. Asa Foster – yes it will be posted on waylandrec website.
29. How do you get snow off the field?
30. Mike Moonan – typically will melt, depending on the depth of the snow, but can plow the snow, or heat the snow off the field.
31. Annette- we did plow a field and caused major damage.
32. Mike Moonan – It was likely done incorrectly.
33. Dorothy- Patriots replacing the field due to injuries
34. Mike Moonan – currently reporting they didn't like the play of it, can't attribute injuries to it.
35. Resident - When did they begin using crumb rubber? Sometimes cancer can take decades to show up. "The absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence."
36. Mike Moonan 1998
37. Dorothy Dunlay – we grow our food in our native soils.
38. Terry Wong Edgebrook Road – turf field user. Concerned with crumb rubber from tires, tires wear on the roads.
39. Reed Newton – Haven Lane – safety concern of current fields; new turf badly needed.
40. Will BOH revisit the crumb rubber? Toxicologist reporting that it's cleaner than dirt.
41. Steinberg – needs more data
42. Resident – to Toms comment – if not 2000 hours, 100 hours still beats the other two. Soccer Goalies – same article: ask the mother if she prefer to never play soccer, or bathe at night after exposure.
43. Annette Lewis – is this a one off, or will we take all the fields and turn them into artificial turf fields.
44. Asa – A combination of turf and grass fields in town, allow us to rehab existing grass fields.

45. Tom Sciacca – temperature levels where children shouldn't play on mid-day times in the summer. On the issue whether we should decide on anecdotal evidence, fundamental misconception that innocent until proven guilty, shouldn't apply here. Plastics polyethylene or polycarbonate. Strands that are green and resemble grass, have a chemical that is emerging as chemical of interest. Deteriorating and winding up in drinking water – not just the infill.
46. Bob Virzi – Toms comments on surface temperate – what's it got to with the players?
47. Resident (chemist, blue shirt, big, was at last Com Meeting) worried about particles migration and the grass. Are they contained in anyway, like with a liner?
48. D.Todd, Glezen Lane, parent of two kids – new to this, and appreciate the perspectives – reinforce that Wayland has a poor track record to grass field. We have dirt fields with weeds on them, not irrigated fields. If we need to commit a natural grass field and take care of it, when the field is unusable.
49. Brud Wright– part of the plan is to refurbish the grass fields in town. We plan to bring in back next year, and not over use it, we need to move the delta to another field that can support it. A mixture of turf and grass fields in town, allow us to rehab existing grass fields.
50. Asa – Rec uses turf about 36 hours a week, on top of the school usage (60 hours per week)
51. Mike Moonan – resident asked where do CRP go to be disposed of, goes into a landfill or gets reused.

8:59 PM TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF MEETING

8:59 PM PUBLIC COMMENT:

8:59 PM MEETING ADJOURNED

Adjourn; There being no further business before the Recreation Commission Brud Wright moved, seconded by Frank Krasin, to adjourn the meeting of the Recreation Commission at 8:59 pm; Discussion: None; Vote: 4-0-0.
