

Draft Minutes of the Ashland Community Preservation Committee
Tuesday July 16th 2019
Basement Level Meeting Room A & B

In Attendance: Aaron Ladd, Joe Rubertone, Kathy VanLancker, Donna Saul, Eric Gemperline, Amy Sayed
Absent: Gretchen Bravacos, Devin Cashman

Mr. Ladd called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Ladd commented that neither the Town Forest Committee nor the Upper Charles River Trail Committee would be presenting anything to the committee this evening.

Mr. Ladd then introduced Nick Moscaritolo who wanted to present a number of potential ideas for recreational funding requests around the towns numerous outdoor sport facilities. Mr. Moscaritolo gave a brief description of his prior involvement in advocating for town sporting facilities including his involvement with the Ashland Field Management Group ("AFMG") whose primary purpose was to advocate for the management and maintenance of the various town sporting fields. Mr. Moscaritolo indicated that the AFMG is no longer an active entity.

Before presenting the ideas to the committee Mr. Ladd asked how vetted these ideas have been with the schools, athletic teams, and Ashland DPW. Mr. Moscaritolo indicated that he had discussed the potential ideas he was about to present to the schools via the Athletic Directors and with the Ashland DPW via discussion with Doug Small with whom he indicated he had a long and productive working relationship. Mr. Moscaritolo indicated he had not discussed these ideas with anyone within Ashland Town Hall yet.

Mr. Moscaritolo then began taking the committee through the various conceptual projects and very preliminary estimates of their cost.

Proposed Project #1: Construct a fifth tennis court at the Ashland Middle School. Mr. Moscaritolo indicated that the Ashland courts at the middle school are used by the High School Tennis team and that the current 4 courts do have lights in place for evening or nighttime games.

Due to the structure of tennis tournaments held by high school and other teams a fifth court is necessary to avoid making the tournament go for a pro-longed time period.

Mr. Moscaritolo did not have an estimate of what the cost would be to create a fifth court.

Mr. Ladd asked if there was enough room there to create the fifth court. Mr. Moscaritolo briefly explained how it would be laid out if constructed, with the 5th court added perpendicular to other courts, in an area relatively level closest to the school. Mrs. Saul asked if this court would create any issues for the abutting neighborhood especially considering additional development of 55+ housing in the upcoming years. Light impacts are unknown at this time.

Mr. Moscaritolo indicated that the laborers union of the Ashland DPW would do the work to install the courts at no cost, so the request would just be for funds to actual materials and equipment.

Project #2 Install Batting Cages at the Middle School. Mr. Moscaritolo indicated where on the map the cages would be constructed and provided an example to the committee of what the actual cages would look like. The supporting materials he presented to the committee indicated the cages and equipment would cost \$4,500 and that the labor to install the cages would be donated by the DPW laborers union.

Project #3 Install Flat Concrete Area next to Middle School Concession stands to allow for larger rental groups and tournaments to rent the town facilities. Also install a gravel driveway to access the area. The supporting materials he presented to the committee indicated the cages and equipment would cost \$10,000 and that the labor to install the cages would be donated by the DPW laborers union.

Mrs. Sayed questioned whether this was an allowable use of CPC funds as it appeared that the ask was primarily to increase the commercial viability of the town facilities to outside groups for rental purposes. There was some discussion amongst the group on this topic. The committee also asked if concrete would impact stormwater runoff for the site, and cinder would be preferred to avoid additional drainage needed.

Mr. Ladd wanted to discuss how this addition would fit into overall usage of the middle school for events and the long-term vision for the area.

Mr Rubertone asked about the potential to create a pavilion and usable bathrooms to avoid people accessing the school on weekends which Mr. Ladd commented would allow the schools to be better secured while they are not in use for education. Mr. Moscaritolo indicate that he thought that these uses might not be best usage of CPC funds as the school will often lock such restroom facilities to avoid the need to winterize them each year.

Project #4 Install Field Lights at the High School and Middle School Baseball and Softball fields. Estimated cost of materials was \$750,000 with the labor to install the lights donated by the DPW laborers union.

Mr. Ladd asked if the fields for which lights were being requested were synthetic artificial turf or grass fields. Mr. Moscaritolo indicated that all the fields in question were grass fields.

Mr. Ladd highlighted the fact that many neighboring communities have opted not to add lights to grass fields because of the limited time period for effective use of the field. He indicated that these towns had only built lights over synthetic turf because there is a much longer period of usability on these fields over the course of a 12-month period. Mr. Ladd also asked if the additional lights would have impacts on neighbors, it was unknown at the time of the presentation their impact.

Having completed his presentation the committee thanked Mr. Moscaritolo for his efforts and the group discussed the follow up items and timeline which would be necessary to hit in order to be ready for the fall town meeting.

Administrative Matters

The committee then reviewed minutes for the April 23rd meeting which was approved as amended with a vote of 6-0-0.

Kathy VanLancker made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Gemperline and passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0-0.