

Evaluation of Parks, Fields and Recreational Areas Committee Meeting

May 30, 2013, 7:30 PM

Medway Senior Center

Medway, MA

Minutes:

The joint meeting of Board of Selectmen, Parks, EPFRAC, and Gale was called to order at 7:50 pm.

Attendance: *Selectmen:* Richard D’Innocenzo, John Foresto, Glenn Trindade.

EPFRAC: Mark Diebus, Mike Francis, Rob Pearl, Ross Rackliff, Robert Reagan

Parks: Tom Holder

Gale Associates: Lindsey Barber

Rick D’Innocenzo called the meeting to order and introduced Lindsey Barber of Gale Associates.

Lindsey reviewed Gale’s approach and scope of work, which include a facilities evaluation and assessment of amenities. Gale has created a matrix of field usage and is using the information to compare to industry standards for uses per year and maintenance requirements. Gale is done with the data collection phase and is into the Final Master Plan and Operations/Maintenance Plan, which include recommendations on redistributing usage among existing field space and the construction of new fields, trails, and recreational space.

Tom stated that the intention of the meeting is to update the Board of Selectmen and the EPFRAC members, as well as to provide feedback and direction to Gale to be used in the final report.

Lindsey displayed a chart/calendar showing all aspects (staffing, depreciation, aeration, fertilization, etc) of maintaining a field or trail to an “A” level and the associated costs. She also provided a handout discussing current expenditures and what additional funds are required to reach “A” status.

Short term repairs were briefly discussed and a handout containing the Needs Assessment results was distributed. The handout provides an overview of the results of the town-wide survey and the discussions with Open Space and the HS and youth sports groups.

Another handout was distributed showing the current inventory of field space and the methodology used to calculate field over/under usage. Gale has concluded that Medway is 2-5 full-size multi-purpose fields short of meeting its usage requirements.

Lindsey then handed out a redevelopment and expansion analysis for each complex (high school, middle school, Oakland, and Idylbrook), as well as opportunities for recreational open space at the Village Street Amphitheater, Charles River, and additional trails at various parks.

The final handouts were overhead maps of existing facilities with an overlay of new or redistributed fields and trails.

Lindsey concluded with a summary of next steps. Gale will continue to work with Parks and will send a near-final draft to Tom Holder in the coming weeks. Tom will solicit comments from interested parties and return to Gale for production of the final report. The final report will include a phasing plan and is scheduled to be distributed near the end of July. After distribution of the final report, the interested parties will discuss the conclusions and begin preparations for fall's Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 pm.