

Minutes – Wayland School Committee Finance Subcommittee  
8/7/17

A meeting of the School Committee's Finance subcommittee was called to order at 9:10 AM by Jeanne Downs who announced the meeting was being recorded by Waycam.

**Present were:**

Jeanne Downs, chair  
Kathie Steinberg

**Also present:**

Ben Keefe, Facilities

**Observers**

Tom Sciacca

**1. Public Comment**

Tom Sciacca reported that the realistic use ratio of synthetic fields to grass fields was more in the order of 2:1 versus a 5:1 ratio. While the 5:1 ratio may be technically correct, it is unrealistic given the scheduling of the field would most likely be from 3 PM to 8 or 9 PM, or 6 hours. He spoke to the availability, durability, desirability and cost of alternate infill materials. He cautioned that Wayland would likely face a court challenge should the spirit of the law prohibiting use of CPA funds for synthetic turf fields not be honored.

**2. High School Athletic Facility Master Plan Update**

Jeanne and Kathie reviewed the draft article and suggested edits.

Ben joined the meeting. He reiterated that the synthetic turf carpet is also at the end of its life and needs replacement and the increasing deterioration of the fields and facilities could lead to field failure. Emergency repairs would be quite costly, and in some cases may not even be possible so we would be left without the field or structure. This would have an effect on the athletic program: higher operating costs, decreased participation of an important high school program, inability to schedule practices/games, increased pressure on already over-used fields and facilities.

The proposal being considered is the "right way to plan." The extensive repairs and renovations require tearing up of the existing facilities, and this presents an opportunity to address many of the environmental issues. It provides the opportunity to install the proper drainage and sub-surface materials, and allows relocation out of Zone 1 for better protection of the well heads. While this is a more costly and extensive project, it is the proper thing to do. At this point, given the extent of the deterioration of the track and tennis courts, and the fragile condition of the carpet at the end of its life expectancy, he's not sure you could even "band aid" any repairs.

Ben estimated the utilization ratio of synthetic to grass fields at 3:1. His calculation put it between 2.5 – 2.9, but seeing you can't have a "partial" field, he recommended using the 3:1 ratio. He also discussed the cost of alternate to tire crumb rubber infill. He reported the construction quotes provided by Weston and Sampson include costs for providing the "best" infill choice for each location and the underlay as well. He estimated the increased cost of an alternate infill to be less than 1% of the overall project which is why you want to go with the "best" alternative.

The timeline for preparation of the warrant article due Aug 30 was discussed. The presentation of the draft warrant article incorporating this morning's edits and changes to the school committee at this evening's meeting was discussed.

The agenda for the Aug 9 Informational Meeting for Other Boards was discussed. The meeting will include: genesis of how we got here; purpose of what we are doing, why now, warrant article. We will ask the attendees for their input in the plan and share our expectations for the design process.

### 3) Approval of Minutes

No meeting minutes were available for approval.

### 4) Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Jeanne Downs and seconded by Kathie Steinberg, the subcommittee voted unanimously (2-0) to adjourn at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathie Steinberg

Corresponding Documents:

Agenda

Draft Warrant Article