

Capital Outlay Committee Minutes
November 1, 2018

This was a joint meeting with the School Committee, the Board of Selectmen, the Capital Outlay Committee, and the Advisory Board for the purposes of discussing a proposed turf field at Hull High School.

Lemnios made a presentation about the proposed field. This presentation is available on the home page of the town website. It covered the following subjects:

- ☐ The importance of active recreation to all residents and to making Hull a vibrant community.
- ☐ The role of town officials, town staff, boards and committees, and town departments.
- ☐ Capital Outlay Expenditure for FY14-19
- ☐ Current status of recreation rehabilitation plan and plans going forward, including all playgrounds
- ☐ Playground rehabilitation program and CPA funding requests for same.
- ☐ New Community Walking track and turf field as part of the recreational plan, including use by all residents and possibility of paying for itself with rentals.
- ☐ Cost Projections, about \$200,000 - \$210,000 for the first year and then declining as the years passed.
- ☐ Next Steps, including a Memorandum of Understand (MOU) between the School Committee and Board of Selectman with half the cost to come from the School Committee and half from the town's general funds budget; drafting of Warrant Article; bidding the Project subject to funding; and presentation of Warrant Article to Town Meeting May 2019.

Stephanie Peters, School Committee Chair, stated that a group called Field 4 Hull has raised about \$80,000 from corporate and individual donors. Discussions with town officials about how to get the field done without raising the tax levy are ongoing. The School Committee is looking at methods to raise funds, including leasing parking and renting advertising space. They will continue to explore funding opportunities in the months to come. Their goal is to have the project shovel ready by Town Meeting and have a field ready by fall.

Dan Sullivan, member of the Advisory Board, asked if they had anticipated what kind of advertising would appeal, and what kind of signage. Peters said that they have looked at other new fields in the area and it would involve metal signage around the fences, as well as scoreboard advertisement. Advisory Board member Peter Larsen asked if there was thought about naming the field after an advertiser. Peters said that the field is currently named after someone, but the committee is discussing it. Larsen said that New Balance has an initiative regarding childhood obesity.

Pat Cormier, of the Advisory Board, asked what other towns have done with comparable sites for the boards to examine. Scott Paine, High School Athletic Director, stated that Norwell gets \$1,000 a year for 3-year contracts, but they

generated so much money through renting the field that they no longer pursue advertising revenue. Norwell has two fields in the same complex.

David Clinton, Advisory Board Chair, said asked how turf maintenance and eventual replacement of the carpet will be financed. Lemnios said that these items would be added to the MOU. He said that a big amount of the cost is establishing the underlying structure for the carpet, which would be less expensive to replace. Peters said that rental income would be put away for this purpose.

Robin Healey, 31 J Street, asked if there was an opportunity to bring Hull Youth Soccer back from Cohasset. Peters said that HYS plays in Cohasset and pays a facility fee to the Cohasset complex. Field 4 Hull is discussing this matter with HYS and Hull Youth Football.

Jim Canvan, 116 Manomet Ave., asked about enterprise funds for the field. Lemnios said that a revolving account or a directed capital stabilization account could be used for future needs.

Deborah Bisoni, 62 Main St., asked if the materials used in the field would be carcinogenic as well. Lemnios said that the CDC has looked at it and has not yet reported on it. He said that no federal or state agency has issued an advisory on the matter. The focus of the concerns is the pellets. If a report were issued saying that it should not be used, there are alternate materials that can be considered, and whether to use the pellets is a decision for the School Committee. The current cost configuration is for a standard type of field, which uses pellets. Canavan said that the Mass Department of Public Health has said that there was inconclusive information that it provided any threat.

Liz Kay, 45 Hampton Circle, asked if there are use cases regarding areas that are in flood zones and whether the pellets might go into the bay. Lemnios said that the Conservation Commission and DEP did not raise this issue. Lemnios that the School Committee will have responsibility and maintenance of the field for which there is a specific schedule. Peters said there is a field in Gloucester that was underwater and had no major damage.

Eric Hipp of the School Committee said that there is information on hullpublicshools.org related to the work the School Committee did on the field two years ago. He said this includes comparisons to other coastal community fields.

Polly Rowe, 9 Rockview Road, asked about the school's ability to raise a million dollars. She asked what debts are expiring and what would come from the general budget if the school is not successful raising the funds. She also wondered about the accessibility of the walking path when school is in session or when there is a game. Peters said that it would not be open during school hours, but would be open during games outside of school hours.

Steve Flynn, Planning Board, stated that two years ago the question came up about the heat generated by turf fields. Peters said that her children play sports in the summer on turf fields.

Susan Mann said that the School Committee had mentioned a concern about the raising of the money and wanted to know if the School Committee was now feeling more confident about it. Peters said that there is a lot of optimism about the ability to raise the money. She said that she didn't see this going forward if the school can't raise the money.

Peters asked people to tune in to School Committee meetings to get information going forward.

Rhoda Kanet said that she was in support of a field, but had concerns about tire crumbs. She noted that Connecticut has banned tire crumb from all its fields, as have other states. She requested that the School Committee get bids for non-tire-crumbs material because there is so much controversy.

Jim Canavan asked how much the town has to pay to play in Abington, including busses. Paine said that it costs \$400 to bus the team, and Abington is allowing Hull to use the field at no cost. Peters said that it is about \$150 per hour for use of another field.

Steve White said that he is a parent and this project is important to him and a lot of other people. He said that he has looked at the overall economics and the field will be good for the entire town from an economic perspective.

Rowe asked if grant money or CPA funds can be used for the field. Lemnios said that most elements are prohibited by CPA legislation. He said that grants are not usually available.

Reilly said that people in town have a long record of raising funds when needed. Peters asked people to be kind on social media, as children read what is written. Capital Outlay Committee adjourned at 9:25 p.m.