

**FIELD FEES COMMITTEE  
NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**

**MINUTES – September 19, 2023 Meeting**

**Members Present (6 voting members):** Ed Sbordone (chair), Ken Craw, Dominic Cipollone, Ken Bennett, Sean Loughran,

**Member Absent:** Jim Keller

**Also Present:** Phil Ross, Mark Ottusch, Mike Evans

**Minutes submitted by:** Ken Craw

**Meeting Access:** Field Fees Committee (9/19/23 at 4 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/96077158673>  
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 960 7715 8673

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. August 16, 2023

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of August 16, 2023, as presented

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Sean Loughran

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

**III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Report on Field Conditions - Phil Ross gave an update on the field conditions. The fields are deteriorating, and he doubts that we can get another five years, probably only two years, with the fields. He recommends accelerating the process to replace them, and we would need updated bids gathered through the Purchasing Department. Phil will check with Patty Mota about the updated bid process. The track also needs replacement, although to save money, resurfacing the track could be an option.

B. Field Fees Structure – We have found that we are unique in the way we collect field use fees, i.e., per participant, and the per participant rate has not increased in a while. We have found that the amount in Fund 211 is not sufficient to cover the entire cost of the turf field/track replacement. Mark Ottusch explained that some groups use one field, while other groups use more than one field, so the recommendation is to increase the participation base rate to \$50 (includes the use of one field) plus \$5 for the use of each additional field. If a group is using three fields, the base fee also covering one field, would be \$50 plus \$5 (for each additional field) X 3 = \$65 per player. We may have to go to the town for support to replace the fields/track. It is very difficult to collect spectator fees. The first \$12,000 in gate fees offsets the athletic budget and additional revenue is placed in the student athletic activity fund. Fundraising by booster clubs and grants to help defray the replacement costs was discussed. Marty Morgan field would be next in line for replacement.

C. Discussion of Rebel Turf Replacement – Was discussed under B.

**IV. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Board of Education Policy 1330 – Appendix A & Appendix B –

**Motion:** To move that the committee recommend an increase in the field participant fee from \$40 to \$50 through the first field, with an additional \$5 for each field after that

Made by: Ken Craw

Seconded by: Ed Sbordone

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

This policy will be presented to the Policy Subcommittee and the Parks and Recreation Committee, then to the full Board for approval.

**V. OTHER** - Mike Evans spoke of this increase that may be a burden to families of children participating in multiple athletic activities.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Made by: Ed Sbordone

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

Seconded by: Dom Cipollone

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.