

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

MINUTES – December 9, 2024 Meeting

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

Member Absent:

Also Present: Carrie DePuy, Phil Ross, Mark Ottusch, Tom Pardalis, Mike Evans, and George Frascione

Minutes submitted by: Ken Craw

Meeting Location: Meeting Access: Field Fees Committee (12/9/24 at 4 p.m.)

Web: <https://zoom.us/j/93256761373> **Dial In: (929) 205-6099**

Meeting ID: 932 5676 1373

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 29, 2024

Motion: To approve the minutes of July 29, 2024, as presented

Made by: Sean Loughran

Seconded by: Ed Sbordone

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Stadium Lighting Replacement Update – Carrie DePuy and Phil Ross reported that the stadium lighting replacement project went very smoothly and quickly. It was completed on budget and the old lights were scrapped.

B. Track/Turf Replacement Update – Carrie DePuy and Mark Ottusch reported that details of the project, such as colors, logo and warranties are being reviewed very carefully. The project is scheduled to begin on June 16th.

C. Softball Field Use - Concerns and issues regarding use of softball fields and scheduling were presented and discussed. There are not enough fields to accommodate the growing interest in softball. George Frascione reported that there is a plan in place to get the 50/70 field back into service and to bring Cashman, which is a Town field, up to specification as well. Netting is needed along the first base line because balls are lost in the brush, which has not been kept under control. Regarding scheduling, there is an increased interest in softball, and Mike Evans and Joe Garbowski handle scheduling. The Diamond Club has plans to use their funds to upgrade the quality of the fields and address drainage issues. It is estimated that the cost of netting is \$25,000 - \$35,000 and drainage is \$5,000. Phil Ross will get estimates for netting.

D. Field Fees Structure – The BOE approved a \$10 increase per user, from \$40 to \$50, beginning with the 2024 fall season. Mike Evans shared a spreadsheet concerning field fees income and turf replacement expenses with the committee members. Changes to the fee structure for the 2025 fall season would have to be enacted soon. Concerns were raised about increased fees charged for groups that do not use turf fields and/or have reduced access to turf fields. Fees do not generate enough funding to replace turf fields, fees should be considered a contribution into the fund to replace turf, and everyone participates in providing funding to replace the turf fields. Marty Morgan turf will need to be replaced within the next two to three years.

IV. OTHER - There was discussion about which group/groups will be responsible for the ongoing cost of maintenance of the Pavillion. This will be a topic for discussion at a future

meeting. Concerning softball field netting, Phil Ross added that the cost to replace a 45' high, 100' long netting in 2018 was \$12,000, and he will get an updated quote from the vendor for similar netting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Dom Cipollone

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.