

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

MINUTES – March 11, 2024 Meeting

Members Present (6 voting members): Ed Sbordone (chair), Ken Craw, Dominic Cipollone, Ken Bennett, Jim Keller (*arrived 4:15 p.m.*), Sean Loughran

Member Absent:

Also Present: Carrie DePuy, Phil Ross, Mark Ottusch, Mike Evans

Minutes submitted by: Ken Craw

Meeting Location: Meeting Access: Field Fees Committee (3/11/24 at 4 p.m.)

Web: <https://zoom.us/j/94127836555> **Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 941 2783 6555**

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 12, 2024

Motion: To approve the minutes of February 12, 2024, as presented

Made by: Sean Loughran

Seconded by: Ken Craw

Recording of vote: In favor – 5 Jim Keller was not present to vote.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Discuss and Review of Turf and Track Quotes and Review of FY24-25

Budget Status – Committee members stressed the importance of doing the field and track at the same time, and possibly including the new lighting at the same time as well. Information about replacing the lighting is being gathered. Field and track replacement is a priority in the Capital Budget, and concern was expressed about obtaining funding in time to accomplish this project during the summer of 2024. Both the Operating and Capital Budgets need to be supported. The Sprinturf track quote has not been received.

B. Discuss and Review the Current Field Fees Structure - Mike Evans, who schedules the field use for town groups, shared a spreadsheet indicating a recommended yearly fee, based on an average of the previous five years, that would be charged, regardless of the number of participants. This fee, which can be negotiated, can be increased by a certain percentage, e.g. 5% every year. The pay-to-play fee that is charged is used to offset the interscholastic athletic budget, and it was suggested that a certain portion of that fee be placed in a separate field replacement fund. The Town would also contribute to field replacement. A special field replacement fund can be established to hold field replacement money.

IV. ACTION ITEMS - None

V. OTHER - Members of the public spoke about the turf fields and outdoor facilities, the need for the field, track and lighting replacement, and the need to increase the field usage fees, and it was asked if field fees are used for upgrading of all outdoor facilities, or just the turf fields.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Made by: Dom Cipollone

Seconded by: Ken Bennett

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.