

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

MINUTES – February 12, 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

Minutes submitted by: Ken Craw

Meeting Location: New Fairfield Community Room, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

ADDITION TO AGENDA

Motion: To add *Public Comment* to the agenda under V. Other

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Dom Cipollone

Recording of vote: All in favor

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 19, 2023

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 19, 2023, as presented

Made by: Jim Keller

Seconded by: Sean Loughran

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Five-Year Capital Plan - Phil Ross explained that the five-year capital improvement plan contains \$600,000 to cover the cost of the field and track replacement. He gave an update on the field conditions. G-Max testing confirms that the field is deteriorating. Upon visual inspection of the track, one can see cracks and large parts of the rubberized surface are loose, indicating that the track needs to be repaired or replaced. When you are replacing a field inside a track, it makes sense to replace both at the same time, but that would require an additional \$600,000 to achieve. During year 2026-27 of the 5-year plan, the target is to replace the stadium lighting, which would cost \$440,000. The present lighting was installed during the construction of the original NFHS, and would be replaced by LED lights, which would result in a better lit field. The fields are used by school and community groups.

B. Condition of the Track - Jim Keller reported on the condition of the track. The track is not in good shape. It can be patched, but the patches are a temporary fix. Certain lanes get more use than others. The present track replaced the track that was originally installed 30 years ago. The high jump area is not safe. Machines used to replace the turf field will further damage the track. Testing reports are not available.

C. Review of Turf and Track Quotes – Updated quotes have been received. Mark Ottusch reviewed details of the updated quotes from Sprinturf, FieldTurf and Rekortan. The original turf field was replaced under warranty.

D. Field Fees Update – Per participant field fees that are collected fall short of the funds needed to replace the turf field and track. Field replacement cannot rely on fees collected. The five-year Capital Plan contains \$600,000 to cover the shortfall.

IV. ACTION ITEMS - None

V. OTHER - *Public Comment*

Various members of the public spoke of the following: in favor of replacement of the stadium turf field and track; upkeep of all facilities as a town responsibility; per participant field fees that are charged athletes who do not use the turf fields; users who do not pay usage fees; clarification of school, town and club usage of the facilities. It was agreed that the Field Fees Committee needs to meet more often.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Ken Bennett

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.