

Athletic Fields Renovation Committee

11/30/2017 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Glenn Niles, Victor Karlsson, Andrew Bates, Dean Berardo, Lisa Delzio, Robin Greene, Lisa McPartland, Gabriella Anfuso, Pete Fragiacom, Adam Beal, Cathy Chiudina

Meeting began at 6:32pm.

Victor Karlsson began by providing an overview of the project, stating that this work was first contemplated two years ago. However, the District was limited in the level of land disturbance allowable under New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations due to the district-wide construction project that was already in process. Most recently, a thorough inspection of the fields by our insurance company, New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal (NYSIR), resulted in an unsatisfactory report. This forced the Board of Education to pass a resolution, declaring the repair of the fields an emergency which expedites project approval by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

Victor informed the committee that the District is working with KG&D Architects and Insite (Civil) Engineers to seek approval from DEP and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), which both have jurisdiction over any land disturbance on the BCSD campus. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required to be filed with both agencies when causing land disturbance. This plan must mitigate water erosion and runoff, which may include planting sufficient vegetation and creating retention ponds.

Based on Insite's most recent estimate, it is likely that the cost of implementing the SWPPP would exceed \$100K before any funds are committed toward the actual field repairs. Victor stated that had the field repairs taken place in the summer of 2019 (after the JFK paving project), it could have been staged in phases so as not to disturb more than 2 acres at any given time and avoid the costly implementation of a SWPPP.

Insite is meeting with DEP on December 12th to gain a better understanding of the DEP's requirements in order to prepare a SWPPP that is sufficient for approval. It is anticipated that it will take four-six weeks for Insite to complete the plan for submittal to DEP at the end of January.

Lisa Delzio acknowledged that the repairs to the softball field were much less significant than those required to the baseball field and asked whether there was a possibility of allowing use of the softball field this spring, provided that parents/guardians complete liability waiver forms. Victor responded that our insurance company abides by the highest standards of safety and any deviation from their recommendation would make us liable for lawsuit if there was an injury. Andy Bates reinforced that by adding that we are relying on the experts (NYSIR, KG&D, Insite, and our legal counsel) to guide us through the project.

Victor and Andy then reviewed the scope proposal that was prepared initially in August 2015 by KG&D Architects and their sub-contractor. The committee agreed with the scope in terms of the field repair components, but also developed a list of items that should be considered in addition to the repair work:

- Baseball Field: extend height of fence along first base line to protect spectators
- Baseball Field: replace bleachers from old football field and reverse them to face the baseball field
- Softball Field: install bleachers
- Softball Field: install moveable outfield fence, similar to the one at Ridgefield High School
- Both Fields: install bullpens, batting cages, and increase storage capacity

Adam Beal asked about how the repairs and additional items would be funded, to which Victor responded that the Board's resolution established a budget for the emergency repair work only, and that additional funding sources would need to be identified for all other items. Robin Greene explained that the Brewster Sports Foundation (BSF) has raised funds over the past two years for the baseball and softball fields. The BSF Executive Committee will be meeting on Monday, December 4th. She is excited to work with the committee on continuing fundraising efforts and making these enhancements a reality.

Dean Berardo provided an update on identifying temporary locations for the Spring 2018 baseball and softball seasons. Dean has been performing site visits throughout the Town of Southeast and verifying minimum/maximum field dimensions with Section 1 Athletics to ensure the fields meet regulations. Adam Beal and Pete Fragiaco both commented that the field at Zimmer Road does not drain well after rain, which should be taken into consideration. Dean mentioned that the fields on Mt. Ebo Road were also being examined. Pete requested that he be notified as soon as possible so that Brewster Little League can plan accordingly to co-inhabit any fields used by the District. The conversion of BCSD fields was also considered, but likely would not be cost-prohibitive and would also interfere with the land disturbance level. Dean stated that these locations will be finalized in a formal agreement with the Town and communicated in advance of the committee's next meeting. Cathy Chiudina added that she would be happy to work with Dean in identifying an appropriate field within the Town.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 6:30pm at the District Office, located at 30 Farm To Market Road. KG&D Architects and Insite Engineers will be attending to provide a progress update and present revised plans to the committee.

Meeting ended at 7:21pm.