

## **Brewster Central School District Athletic Fields Renovation Committee 11/27/2018 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Diane O'Brien (BoE), Victor Karlsson, Dean Berardo, Kenny Winch, Robin Greene, Lisa McPartland, Matt Cunningham, Lisa Delzio, Cathy Chiudina

Guests: Joe Reilly (KG&D Architects) & John Watson (Insite Engineering)

Absent: Glenn Niles (BoE), Andrew Bates, Pete Lamoreaux, Ann Marie Chalmers, Chrissy King, Pete Fragiaco, Adam Beal, Gabriella Anuso, Rich Anderson (Brewster Little League), Kathleen Snyder (Insite Engineering)

Meeting began at 4:08pm.

The group gathered at the JFK parking lot and observed the status of the softball field renovations. Joe described the status of the softball field being ready for "fine grade" leveling, which is the last stage before sod is installed. He lamented about the weather that we experienced this summer and fall, which significantly hindered the ability of the contractor to perform this sitework project. John added that many of the sitework projects he is working on are experiencing the same setbacks and are behind schedule. He cited National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data which shows that rain fell on 55% of days between August and October. He added that this was nearly twice the average amount for that time period, and that typically the day following rain is lost as well if the soil is unable to dry. Victor asked whether or not the irrigation system was installed, to which Joe responded that it had and pointed out the water valve boxes to the group.

Joe stated that KG&D Architects and Insite Engineers are recommending that the contractor not move forward with the installation of sod until the spring thaw. John added that the sod would not be able to immediately knit properly with the topsoil due to the impending frost and cold season. He further stressed Insite's previous recommendation not to use the fields in the spring in order to allow the sod to properly root itself. He stressed the importance of protecting the new turf in its infancy, which will provide for a greater durability and a longer life.

Diane asked how long it takes for the sod to knit properly in the spring, to which Joe responded between two and three months, depending on the weather of course. Lisa M. followed up by asking when it would be determined "safe" in the spring to lay the sod. Joe stated that the ground must be dry and past the freeze season, perhaps around St. Patrick's Day in March. He again stressed the caveat of weather and noted the possibility of a March snowstorm, which would of course delay the installation of the sod.

Robin questioned why there was an area of the field that appeared to have puddled water, to which John responded that it would be resolved after the "fine grading" process. He then pointed out marker sticks throughout the field which are read by lasers to ensure the proper pitches are applied for water runoff. Robin then asked how the project was with regard to the budget to which Victor responded that even with the change order to install irrigation systems and sod, the project was still within budget. Joe added that the installation of sod was negotiated at no cost to the district, due to the contractor's inability to mobilize at the start of the project.

Victor then asked if the installation of sod would allow for the recovery of the time lost due to

mobilization and rain. John responded that not having the sod down before the winter would not substantially change the timeline presented at the June 12th meeting. Matt asked how long the contractor's delay in mobilizing set the project back, to which Joe responded that the weather played a much larger role than the contractor. He added that the switch to sod recovered any time lost due to the contractor and actually improved the timeline, if not for the rain.

The group then walked to the baseball field and immediately noticed the field level was raised by approximately one foot, especially in right field. Joe described the status of the baseball field being ready for "rough grade" leveling. After that, "fine grade" leveling would take place and then the field would be ready for the installation of sod. Matt noted an area that appeared to have puddled water, to which John responded that the final pitch of the field after "fine grading" would resolve it. He added that the drains are installed in herringbone pattern and filter out to catch basins. Dean added concern about runoff coming from the "old football stadium" field, which is at a higher elevation. John assured the group that the combination of soil infill, drains, and pitch will alleviate the ponding that traditionally occurred in right field.

Lisa M. questioned when work would stop for the winter, to which Joe responded that the goal is to get the baseball field to the same status as the softball field. This would include additional soil infill, infield clay installation, and "rough grade" leveling. He estimated that it would take three weeks to complete these tasks, but added that it is largely dependent upon weather conditions, as always.

Dean stated that he would be reaching out to the Town of Southeast to coordinate an agreement to play on the Town's fields next spring. He also stated that he has not yet heard back from the Baseball Tomorrow Grant Fund regarding the District's application and estimates a determination will be made by the Baseball Tomorrow Grant committee in mid/late December.

Meeting ended at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Karlsson