

Meeting Notes from
Poets Corner Public Input Session #3
Thursday, February 23, 2023
Start Time – 6 pm
End Time – 7:30 pm

Park and Recreation – Joe Connelly, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff
Archdiocese of Boston - Dan Shine, Father Marc Bishop
Belmont Hill - Greg Schneider, Jeff Drucker, David Nardone (Vison Sports Group)

Attendance List:

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Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions – Joe Connelly

Mr. Connelly asked that this meeting not be a debate on pros and cons of artificial turf and let attendees know about the town wide turf forum on April 11th.

Review Process to Date – Joe Connelly

Revised Plan - Vision Sports Design - David Nardone

Draft Usage Plan – Joe Connelly

Feedback and Q/A – See below –Joe Connelly, Leslie Mayer, David Nardone, Father Marc Bishop, Greg Schneider

Next Steps -Joe Connelly

Other – N/A

The slide deck presentation is attached to these notes:

Brian McBride

- Wetland and Habitat Concerns
 - Nardone - Preserve and Improve

Scott Lenox

- Does Field Need to be artificial turf for project to move forward
 - Connelly, Schneider- Yes
- Lights
 - Nardone – Reviewed light locations

Susan Chapnick

- Wetland Delineation Questions
 - Nardone – Will file with ConCom shortly
- Artificial Turf Concerns
 - Connelly – Reminded everyone this was not forum and discussion would be 4/11

John Gersh

- Results of testing and photo matrix data
 - Nardone – Yes will provide information when available
- Light Times
 - Connelly – Between 9 pm and 10 pm, Connelly indicated other times around towns but misspoke that Buck was 9 pm and it is actually 10 pm

Barry Jaspan

- Fencing questions along abutters property
 - Nardone – Would leave open, fencing around field areas

Beth Melofchik

- Turf Concerns
 - Connelly – 4/11 Forum
- Leasing
 - Connelly – Would not be leasing and have longstanding relationship with BELMONT HILL SCHOOL and ACHS on shared field usage
- Expressed concerns over the long term maintenance of the turf material
- Asked if Belmont Hill School looked at available space in Belmont

Chuck Tirone

- Is wetland delineation submittal a violation of the Town Manager study period for turf
 - Connelly – Did not believe so but would inquire
- Other miscellaneous wetland comments to be addressed as part of any Conservation Commission review

Matilde Hastley

- Playground Questions
 - Connelly – More detailed design and public input for specific equipment to come later

Charlie and Debbie Gallagher

- Why not settling turf question first before other plan details
 - Connelly/Mayer – Because we did not know it was an issue until December
- Basketball Hoop exact location to be determined in the official design process
- Shelley Road Condition – Current repairs and plan for future repairs

Sarah McKinnon

- Parking and Traffic Study –Bike parking and safe routes
 - Connelly/Nardone – More to come when it becomes an actual project
 - Connelly – Will ask TAC for recommendations

Wynelle Evans

- Snow storage in new plan
 - Connelly – No
- Operations and Maintenance
 - Connelly/Nardone – Shared responsibilities carefully articulated in the agreement

Tim Rempe

- Timing of project
 - Connelly – Reviewed current projections for a Town Meeting vote on land swap

Grant Cook

- If cannot get turf and BELMONT HILL SCHOOL backs out what will church do with land
 - Father Bishop – It will be sold

Jordan Weinstein

- Is there an actual need for fields
 - Connelly – YES
- Does town have money to repair their portion on own
 - Connelly – Referenced FY22-26 feasibility study and the over \$3 Million dollar estimate and said NO
- Usage question as regards to which fields
 - Connelly reviewed usage as discussed earlier in meeting
- Advocate and Town Meeting member and will not only not vote for this at town meeting but will actively try to have it defeated
 - Connelly – Thanked Mr. Weinstein for his comments

John Gersh

- Overflow parking at church
 - Father Bishop- We will work this out

Julie Horvath

- Look at pickle ball location in town

Mr. Connelly thanked everyone for coming and reviewed the Turf Forum on April 11th as the next steps.

These notes were compiled by:

Joseph Connelly

Director of Recreation