

TOWN OF OXFORD

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MINUTES of OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL DIAMOND PROJECT Committee Meeting

June 12, 2014

A meeting of the Town of Oxford, Oxford High School Diamond Project Committee (the "Committee") was held at Town Hall in Oxford, CT on June 12, 2014. Jim Michaud, Paolo Dell'Oso, Vickie Mahoney, Ken Chudoba, Jim O'Connell Jr, John Gramesty, and Greg Kaether constituting Members of the Committee, and Brian Hourigan (Liaison) participated. Absent from the meeting were Greg Baktis, Francis Keithline, and Dan Kudej). In attendance by invitation was John Barlow, Facilities Manager, Oxford Board of Education. Mr. Michaud served as Chairman and Secretary of the meeting. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. ET.

1. **Notice of Meeting or Waiver.** Roll call was taken and it was noted that a meeting quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes.** The Committee upon motion and duly seconded, unanimously approved the meeting minutes of Many 29, 2014.
3. **Old Business Matters.** John Gramesty updated the Committee on Eastern Waterworks visit to the fields to determine if existing water pressure was sufficient to operate a sprinkler system. It was confirmed that the water pressure of XX was satisfactory. Mr Barlow confirmed that a year earlier the BOE invested in a water pump to support both fields.
4. **New Business Matter.** Mr Michaud summarized the objectives of the project for Mr. Barlow as described below:

Irrigation/Field of play. Currently the grass surfaces of both fields are very uneven and bumpy. Over the past several years it has not been uncommon for a ball to be rolling on the ground and then hit a bump and

bounce directly over a fielder's head, or even worse hit a player in the body or head. Improving the quality of the grass surfaces through adding a proper irrigation system would reduce the number of these instances, making the complex much safer for the athletes

Dugouts. Currently both fields have a fenced in space with benches to house teams during practices and games. The space is an appropriate size but provides no shelter from the elements. This is especially concerning during a thunderstorm, when teams are required to walk all the way into Oxford High School to wait the CIAC mandated thirty minutes to resume play. Having proper dugouts would protect players from rain as well as provide shade during very hot days, thus reducing the risks of athletes overheating.

Fencing/Protection amongst two fields. Due to the close proximity of the fields there are many foul balls that are hit from the baseball field and fall in the vicinity of the softball dugout of field of play and vice versa. Since the players, fans or umpires are not looking for these foul balls they are unable to avoid them in some instances.. Having the players in a dugout would eliminate this safety risk and some additional protective netting would serve as more appropriate protection for all participants.

In addition, the outfield baseball field fences at four feet high, do not provide enough protection for a player colliding with the fence as he is chasing down a deep fly ball. At the current height, a player's midsection or possibly head could collide with top of the fence. Extending the fences to six feet high would reduce the likelihood of a player's midsection or head making contact with the top of the fence. In addition to raising the height of the fences, installing a plastic fence cap along all outfield fence sections would further increase safety. The softball outfield are 250 feet from home plate. NFHS high school softball rule books suggest fences should be between 190 and 215 feet. This would bring the field up to regulation specifications.

Lighting. Adding permanent lights would ensure that as night time falls games are coming to an end, going into extra innings or poor weather conditions exist, lighting can be provided to ensure that athlete, umpire and fan are seeing the ball appropriately.

Restrooms. The schools restrooms are not in close proximity to the fields or available for use in the summer months when the field is being used for

town recreation games. This poses a problem for the athletes, umpires and attendees.

Covered Structure. There is no covered structured for athlete and other participants when weather conditions warrant a stoppage in play. With heightened security, the school is not an option during non-school hours, week-ends or summer months. The current shed is not adequate for these purposes.

Mr. Barlow agreed that these items needed to be considered and suggested that prior to going to and requesting funding from the BOE or Town, the following steps be taken:

Develop an annual maintenance plan and request funding to preserve any improvement. Currently the Maintenance budget for the athletic fields under the BOE is \$50,000. Mr Barlow made a distinction that while both the baseball and softball fields are Town Property, they are governed by the BOE budget by state statute. The football field on the other hand has components that are funded by the Town and some by BOE. While it may not require any additional resources from the Facilities budget, a request has to be made as to the plan.

Obtain quotes for any work requested as part of the project and be specific as to what is being requested and what is being contributed/funded by others

Put together a detailed presentation and submit to the Superintendent of School who will then submit to BOE Capital Projects Subcommittee, chaired by David Yish. Other members are Amy Cote, Melissa Cole and John Barlow. Plan must include prints, plans etc.

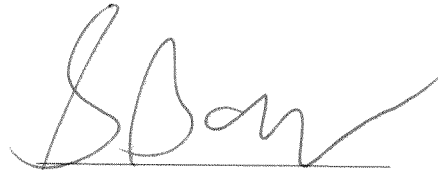
Make presentation to the full BOE.

The typical process for projects like this is to make recommendations for Capital and include as a line item in the annual budget which is submitted to the First Selectmen by January 31 and the Board of Finance by end of February. Otherwise, funding would have to come from any surpluses that are available.

Mr. Barlow indicated that he would assist and collaborate with the Committee and advised the Committee that the BOE has a relationship with Premiere Turf and would be happy to facilitate a meeting at the appropriate time to discuss any recommendations of the Committee. In addition, Mr Barlow indicated that the fields are currently prepared by Kevin Cox of Presitige Landscaping Flat Liners.

5. **Public Comment.** None.

6. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. ET.



Greg Baktis, Secretary

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TOWN OF DAREFORD, CT
Margaret A. West
TOWN CLERK