

Chris Rembold
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Parks Commission Subcommittee on Memorial Field Improvements
March 27, 2017

Present: Paul Gibbons, Karen W. Smith, Charles Bouteiller

Also present: Sean Van Deusen, Chris Rembold, Michael Charles, Brian Cohan

Paul called the meeting to order at 4:00.

Review/Discuss Benchmark Development Proposed Improvements:

Michael said they're objective is to get a general consensus on their (Benchmark's) approach to improvements at Memorial Field.

Roadway/Access Drive: Michael said the road will be 20 feet wide at first, since it needs to accommodate all the traffic for the existing Co-Op market for phase 1 of the development. This is per the Planning Board's recommendation. The Subcommittee agreed that in the permanent condition it should be narrowed to be more like a park driveway. Michael suggested a 12 foot paved width, or maybe 16, as the permanent condition. The guard rail along the road will be wood.

Backstop: Michael said the backstop is one of the first things to be removed in the development. It will be replaced with a structure a little closer to home plate so that the roadway can be installed. There was discussion of how close it should be to home plate in the permanent condition. There was no consensus, except general agreement with Charlie's point that 25 feet would be too close to home plate. The Subcommittee agreed that it would be ok to have a temporary backstop installed for year 1. That way they would have time to see how it works and can decide on the permanent location and design later.

Dugouts: There was no final location decided but the Subcommittee agreed they need to be behind a fence. It was discussed that the third base line dugout and fence might be able to remain where it is. Temporary dugouts were discussed as a possibility.

First base line fence: The developer proposes to install a fence parallel to the first baseline and approximately parallel to the new roadway. There will be several tall poles included in order to accommodate a tall net for game days. It was discussed that there should be a warning track of some kind between the field and the fence.

Storage shed: The existing storage shed will be removed by the developer and rebuilt in a location of the Commission's choosing. It was discussed that it would likely be further down the first base line than it is now. It should have doors wide enough to accommodate the mower.

Batting cage: It was discussed that the batting cage which will be removed should be replaced with a chain link fence enclosure.

Powerhouse and bathrooms: A location for a rebuild Powerhouse structure was discussed. Michael said it is about 12 feet x 20 feet in size. The drawings show a concept location along the Bridge Street fence line, just behind the existing dugout. The Subcommittee discussed using the rebuilt structure as a public bathroom, with the understanding that fitting it out as a bathroom and plumbing it would be at the expense of the Town. It is a good location because it would be visible and would be easy to connect to water and sewer. However it might be difficult to make it handicapped accessible from the field. Michael said they would look at this and that it might require moving it further down the third base line to a flatter location. Charlie pointed out that when we discuss the location in this area we need to consider also whether the Town might ever want to widen Bridge St to accommodate parallel parking.

Retaining wall / seating: The Subcommittee agreed the proposed wall with seating steps is a good plan. Michael said it would be a segmented stacked block wall, similar to the wall at Iredale at the old Bryant School. He said it would not be poured concrete.

The Subcommittee asked to see revised designs and plans.
The next Subcommittee meeting was set for April 24 at 4:00 at Town Hall.

Citizens Speak: Ilana Siegal who owns Life Works yoga said she was interested in serving on the Commission. Paul invited her to send in an email or letter application to the Commission and copy the Town Manager.

Paul adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM.