

DATE: July 18, 2022  
TIME: 2:29 PM

**TOWN OF BELMONT  
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC)**

Minutes: Wednesday, May 11, 2022, Zoom Public Meeting  
Present: Elizabeth Dionne, Margaret Velie, Roy Epstein, Sarah Caputo, Stephen Pinkerton,  
Michael Chesson, Gloria Leipzig, Juliet Jenkins  
Other: Matthew Haskell, Brandon Fitts, Heidi Barbiero, Jonathan Charwick, Olivia  
Messenger  
Absent: David Kane

---

Elizabeth Dionne called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

I) Report from Activitas on the study of recreational assets

Elizabeth handed the meeting over to Brandon Fitts, Acting Recreation Director; Jonathan Charwick, Activitas; and Olivia Messenger, Activitas. Brandon gave an introduction and Jonathan presented a substantially complete overview of the town's recreational inventory.

Elizabeth asked what the lifespan of pour-in-place rubber for playgrounds is? Jon replied that there is a timeline of approximately 5-10 years before resurfacing, then probably 2 resurfacings in the life cycle, 15-year lifespan at the least, 20 years or greater expected.

Stephen asked why Grove Street baseball fields did not make a #1 priority? Jonathan answered that the three baseball fields were omitted because they were not sure what materials would be used to replace the Grove Street fields and, with many options, they did not want to misrepresent it.

Elizabeth asked Brandon if he is planning to use this to create a runway for what the Town should be doing to prioritize recreational facilities? Brandon answered yes. Activitas has provided a significant amount of information and now it must review the data, do analysis, and look at all of the outside factors weighing against it. He also stated that in the next few years the Recreation Commission should look at creating a new Recreation Master Plan.

Roy asked about the need for resting grass fields, as he has heard that natural grass fields need to rest every other year. Since the space that the Town is using is already overused, is there any way to relocate some of the more overused areas? Jonathan confirmed that natural grass does require rest and that is where the artificial fields have the advantage, as there is no rest period necessary. Activitas did not look at if there was a new way to lay out the recreational inventory.

Margaret asked what Jonathan saw as the CPC's role and what they could pay for? Jonathan reviewed the priority list and noted that most of the maintenance in the top need category would be considered construction, but some of these notes are for repairs.

Elizabeth reiterated that the reason for the study was because the CPC wants to prioritize these facilities and make sure that scarce CPA funds are used efficiently and that work that is paid for with CPA funds is not undone within a few years.

Brandon added that this prioritization will also have to take into account what the town residents want as well and what the residents would like their recreational facilities to look like (pickleball, tennis, multi-use fields, etc.).

## II) Other Business

Elizabeth turned the meeting over to Gloria Leipzig. Gloria discussed an incident that had occurred at a Cambridge Housing Authority property that is on Clark Lane in Belmont. While Cambridge Housing Authority and Belmont Housing Authority do not share funding and have separate waiting lists, there has been some misinformation about the incident. Gloria wanted to talk about this to hopefully portray this incident correctly and to try to keep it from derailing the vote that the Belmont Town Meeting will be taking on the Sherman Gardens application in June 2022.

## III) Review and Approve CPC Report to Annual Town Meeting

Roy moved to approve the CPC's Annual Report to Town meeting in substance, authorizing Elizabeth, Margaret, and Matt to fill in remaining factual information with the understanding that this will come back before the committee at the June 2022 meeting. Seconded by Stephen. The motion was approved unanimously: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

## IV) Other Business

- Updates from Liaisons: Long Term Capital Planning Committee, Historic District Commission,
  - HDC – Michael discussed the asset conditions study/ inventory. David Blazon gave a document to the HDC to review giving an overview of what the conditions study and inventory would look like using the Benton Library as an example.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:56PM.

- Gloria moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Roy. The motion was approved unanimously: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Haskell