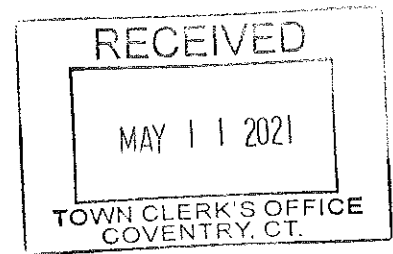


**COVENTRY SOFTBALL FIELDS COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



**Members Present:** Jennifer Rodgers (Chair), Matt Hunt, Ashley Gagnon, Bonnie Edmundson, Mike Blouin

Others: Wendy Rubin, Matt O'Brien

**Jen Rodgers called the meeting to order at 8:02pm. Meeting was conducted through a Town Zoom account. Meeting minutes were approved from last meeting.**

**Current Topics:**

**Fencing**

- Not necessary
- Temporary gromets would do for fencing
- Why is there not enough room for the fence?
  - o Swamp?

**Questions and Answers from Finance Committee**

- At our last zoom meeting in February, the committee agreed to maintain our existing recommendation with no changes. The estimated difference of \$160k included but we still have not reviewed an updated excel spreadsheet from Todd Penney. We are also waiting on the difference in price if softball fields on landfill is built separately or in conjunction with the venting project.
- It is not yet mosquito season or smelly swamp season but I recommend a visit to the lay down yard to view the swamp. Aerial mapping may help too to show the size. With TRIPLE E in eastern CT this could be a concern.
  - Procedure is to follow Eastern Highland Health District guidelines and direction for all sports in town regardless of location the threat of Triple E is one that all groups would have equal concern for.
  - The second field would be closer to the swamp. (where the gravel pit would be) First field would be considered closer to the boys parking lot. Mosquitos were an issue in regard to the water treatment plant.
  - Who is responsible to look into the mosquito issue? – Table it for the DPW
- A second concept was briefly discussed on whether one of the two fields could be a smaller sized field without the permanent outfield fencing....similar to the baseball fields...different sizes for difference age groups. Even the CHS softball field does not have permanent fencing.
  - Permanent fencing is not required in any of our fields, although it maybe consider in the future if space allows. A larger and smaller field in the DPW lay down yard could be an option and would meet our needs at this time. We are happy to discuss this further.
  - Regulation field would be fencing, as long as we have a gromet fencing or some type of fencing would do. We also need to keep in mind for banner hanging

- Much easier to have both bigger fields and make smaller for the younger kids. Full size fields would also be beneficial if the boys want to use it with a temporary mound.
- Another issue which the finance committee raised is a discussion on fundraising, which was discussed by the committee at the beginning of the project. Specifically, what are the committee's expectations to raise?
  - In order to determine our fundraising goals, it would be helpful to have a clear sense of what the town is willing to commit to first. A determined location is necessary to pursue other funding sources. We are currently researching and identifying corporations, fundraisers, grants and donations. The amount we have raised so far is \$14,244 with our Golf tournament, tag sale and t shirt fundraiser.
  - We have discussed phasing the project in to determine how much we would need for each phase. Main focus is we need a field and cost first.
  - How were the new fields in Columbia funding? A donation made, not sure how much.
- DPW has told me that Baseball is not using the snack shack or bathrooms this season...please confirm and find out why? So sharing is not a benefit at this point.
  - I cannot speak on behalf of baseball as to why exactly there is no snack shack or bathrooms this season, that would be a question to ask to the baseball board. I would think the league is making this decision based Covid-19 restrictions and precautions/limitations. In the future the potential for baseball and softball to work together would improve the likelihood of a successful concessions operation.
- The parking issue you and Todd had a site visit on too. Don't know cost...please get so the comparison of costs for the lay down yard location can be

There was a memo sent out in April 7, 2021 from Todd Penney that "It appears to me that we can, at a low budget, formalize that are by boxing out, gravel, killings and painting to mirror the diagonal parking on the east side. This could be done without any significant impacts to the concept plans for the softball fields in the gravel yard." It is my understanding that we are waiting for Todd to get back to us with the numbers.

**Actions:**

- What is needed to go forward:
  - Have a representative at the Monday meeting to provide the answers that we have.
  - Provide a follow up to the other questions we are waiting on answers.
  - We need an update from Todd.

**Adjournment:** With no other business to discuss the portion of the Softball Field Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Gagnon

**Please note:** These minutes are not official until approved by the Softball Fields Committee at the next Softball Fields Committee Meeting. Please see the next Softball Fields Committee Meeting Minutes for approval or changes to these minutes.