

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX BUILDING COMMITTEE

EDWARD E. KELLEHER LIBRARY

MINUTES

Monday

March 5, 2018

The meeting of the High School Athletic Complex Building Committee was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman, Stephen Doret. Committee members present included Johanna DiCarlo, Sara Dullea, Amber Bock, and Earl Storey; and Chris Huntress of Huntress Associates. Also in attendance, Ian Johnson, Board of Selectmen; David Crandall, School Committee; Roger Anderson, Health and Wellness Director.

Mr. Doret welcomed the invited people from the neighborhood to hear an update on the Athletic Complex project as was promised on Town Meeting floor. Mr. Huntress will provide an overview of the project and questions will be entertained.

Mr. Huntress reported the drawings are 50% ready to go and the plans are that the project will be completed by the opening of school in the fall. Plans are to be submitted to the Site Planning Review Board for review, as well as the Planning Board, Health Board, DPW, Police and Fire departments. There is no date set yet for a hearing before the Board of Selectmen and Review Board. Mr. Huntress gave a visual presentation of the survey plans along the property lines and existing conditions, basically the same presentation given at Town Meeting. The Conservation Commission has reviewed the site plans and how trucks will be entering and leaving the parking lot has been considered.

A question was raised as to start times for equipment and construction. It is believed no engines can start before 7:00 am. Most of the work will be done on week days. The only exception may be an occasional Saturday for turf work since it is weather dependent.

Question: is the community exposed to any carcinogens.

Mr. Huntress replied a new turf surface of 3" asphalt base will be put down topped by a 1/2" of rubber. Resin has been specified. The track will be in the same location with the right side of the field paved for high jump and pole vault. The visitors grandstand is not being replaced and the long jump will be moved to that area. The exiting grandstand is not ADA compliant nor does it meet the building code. The new grandstand will be fully handicap accessible. A concrete walkway will be across the top elevation. It is unique to have a walkway at the top elevation and press box area. An evergreen buffer will be placed along the east side property line along with red maples and ornamental flowering trees as a buffer for the neighbors. Plantings will be in the range of 8-10'; 6-8'; and 10-12'.

Q: A member of the audience felt Norway maples were stronger. The grade has been extended and will be planted at the top of the rise. The berm is as high as it can be and respects the existing drainage. The filling of the swale would be beneficial to this project. It has been reviewed by the state and the Conservation Commission.

Q: When is it being cleaned. A presentation was made at the last BOS meeting. It will be cleaned this year. It is a 2 year process.

The new grandstand will be rebuilt to code with handrails from the parking lot. An 18-24" retaining wall will be on either side along the walkway with an event area for groups and a memorial. The upper field cannot host varsity

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Games and will have a retaining wall on both sides to expand the field. The walls are being designed by the structural engineer now. It can accommodate football, soccer, field hockey and lacrosse.

The sound system consultant, Cavanaugh & Tocci has gathered information on background noise. Sensors will be located around the perimeter and will determine what is going on. The current noise level is known so that it can be compared in the future to noise level of the past.

Q: Sound can be heard a couple of blocks away. The sensors should provide the information on the level of complaint. There will be feedback communication. The most effective way to communicate to the school will be determined.

Q: It was suggested a committee of neighbors be established. It was also noted the MIAA does not allow air horns

Mr. Huntress stated Cavanaugh & Tocci has evaluated and recommended a sound system taking into account noise level and control of each speaker. Rebound noise will also be evaluated. It is also designed built by the manufacturer. There is no sound system on the upper field. It was agreed persons operating the sound system will need ongoing training. The Superintendent added people who know how to manage the sound system will be on site. She reminded the audience some of the people operating the equipment will be teenagers and people need to be cognizant of that.

The upper field handicapped accessible walkway will have an egress out to the Project Adventure area. The area will have a 5-8 row, non elevated, bleacher. Drawings are available showing the drainage details, shot put, discus area, storage shed and planting area. The storage area is a salt box style. LED lighting is best for glare control. There is a walkway on either side of the Press Box that can be used for viewing. The bleachers are steel with aluminum decking and a closed backing.

Musco is the vendor providing the 50 foot candle lighting. Readings of 2.8 foot candle will occur by the end of the track; 2.1 in the parking area; .08-.01 by the property line. Neighbors will be aware of a source of light but there will be no noticeable light in the yards. Actual readings will be taken by the installers. The light consultant will be paid by the contractor.

Q: Can the Boosters club provide the announcers. The school department feels it is important to allow the students to be trained and to be aware of their civic responsibility and to be respectful. Superintendent Bock stated the system will be monitored and limits can be set. The school's AV specialist is very competent and will be called upon to offer his expertise.

Mr. Huntress reiterated there is a background noise level reading available now before introducing the sound system. Cavanaugh & Tocci will do multiple readings for one year and will compare readings to the background noise the area has now. The committee will look at the feedback. Mr. Huntress is not saying the recording will be at a negative level. It is important to know what the level was during the Week of Lights. It is the best system money can buy.

Q: A member of the audience wishes to put a policy in place that would make sure the number of scheduled games is limited far into the future.

Q: One audience member wished the “Rap” could be eliminated during the pre game warm up. Limits can be put on the volume dials.

Q: A question was raised regarding a spring fed pond near her property, which she wished to keep. Mr. Huntress replied there are no changes proposed.

Q: Dust in the area during construction. There will be less dust raised in the track and field area. There will be earth movement in May which will cause some dust. There is a dust specialist to monitor the air.

Q: How many events will there be. Mrs. Bock stated the School Committee will look at the number of events and will maintain a guideline. The Athletic Director will follow the policy as established by the School Committee. The maximum number of football games is 6, including Thanksgiving. It will be a schedule that works for everyone. Balance is needed over the night games. The school department does not lease its fields.

Mrs. Bock added the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee is invested in seeing that the community is served well. Planning and work has gone into setting up guidelines. Opportunities will be available to provide more details. Everyone is aware the scheduling is an important piece.

Mr. Crandall stated while serving on the 300th Anniversary Committee, he received a great deal of feedback on what townspeople want. Everyone wants a schedule, but sometimes the schedule has to be changed.

Q: Will Sunday night be a night without lights. Guidelines will be set up for the future. There will be walking lights. Mr. Huntress pointed out walking lights are turned on low. They are mostly a safety light for walking.

A member of the audience suggested the area is for the benefit of the students and the community also. It may be appropriate to invite the Pop Warner and Youth Soccer to play under the lights. Mrs. Bock stated it was in the original plans to provide the youth teams with an opportunity to play. Ms. DiCarlo suggested half time at a varsity soccer game might be a good time to invite the youth to participate.

At 7:55 pm Mr. Bock thanked everyone for coming and for the input they delivered.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 12, 4:00 PM HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY