

Approved 8/10/16
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, July 13, 2016 4:00 p.m. – 5:21 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Richard Knabel, Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Jennifer Rand

Also Present: Robert Smith, Matt Poole, Samantha Look, Rebekah Thompson, Susan Desmarais, Moira Silva, Heather Hamacek, Tony Omar

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 6/29/16. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was CM & SM in favor and RK abstained.*

Turf Field at High School: Richard noted that the meeting was not a public hearing. It was just a discussion with the Board; he noted that the week prior the Board had voted to refer the project to the Commission as a discretionary referral. Robert Smith said he was a founding member of MV@Play, which was the group sponsoring the project. He said they worked with the school committee to design the project. He gave the Board a point by point response to many of the concerns raised by the opponents of the group the week prior. He noted there are studies that have been done at other facilities that show the water quality to be as good as or better than the grass fields. He said there was ample parking as the fields were in use during off-school hours. He noted this should not be considered an elimination of open space, as the area is already an athletic field, this would simply replace what is currently there. He said the field is designed to handle 10" rain per hour, which is more than a grass field can handle. He said the increased traffic should not cause any safety issues as the area is already accustomed to the traffic from the school. He said that when the field is replaced in 10-12 years it will be recycled. He noted that outdoor fields do not need to be disinfected. He noted that much of the environment information presented by the opposition were opinion pieces regarding crumb rubber, which is not proposed for this field. . He also listed a number of colleges who have strong environmental background that use these same fields. Matt Poole said he was involved with the creation of the fertilizer regulations for the island and he noted the amount of inputs required to maintain grass are worse for the environment than the proposed turf, he said he felt the turf is simply a better option. He also noted that the school said they did not want to have a field come off-line during the sports season, and to redo the grass field properly it would be out of commission for a year or more. He said the fields are now in consistent heavy use, and they are packed hard and very dusty. Cindy said the Board had been asked only if the referral made sense, not to debate the merits of the project. Richard agreed that the Board was not going to rule on the project itself. She said the opponents of the project did not feel the school committee had addressed their concerns and they wanted a forum to air those concerns. She said the referral is not meant to be political in any way; the MVC has the staff to answer some of the questions that have been raised. Skipper stated that he was a member of the School Committee and voted in favor and he also noted the Robert Smith was a personal friend, but he felt he could be unbiased. Samantha said she had great respect for Matt Poole, but she wanted more answers. She said she wanted the kids to have great facilities and wanted to assure the best process possible. Skipper said that because the agenda the week prior had not mentioned a possible vote to refer to the MVC he thought either the vote was invalid or the Board should rescind their previous vote and revote the question.

C. Mitchel motioned to rescind the vote take the week prior to refer the project. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was CM & SM in favor, RK opposed.

S. Manter motioned to refer the turf field to the MV Commission as a "Discretionary Referral". C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was RK & CM in favor SM abstained.

Vacation Carry-Over – ACO: *S. Manter motioned to allow the animal control officer to carry over 106.5 hours of vacation time. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*