

## Grantham Recreation Park Committee Meeting

February 7, 2011

6 p.m.-7:33 Jerry Whitney Room, Town Hall

Attending: Becky Newton, Admin. ; Warren Kimball, Selectman; Jerry Coogan, TS Moran; Mark Belter, Engineer; Todd Cartier; Rick Anderson; Marsha Googins, Athletic Director; Jerry Bieszczad; Matt Carl; Justin Hastings; Brian Hastings; Jodi Jones-Poljasik; Roger Hanks; David Susco.

Meeting began with overview from Jerry Coogan and Becky Newton about Wetland review at DES. Peter Schauer, a wetland specialist, has determined that the wetland of Grantham Recreation Park estimated to be approximately 2 +/- acres and mitigation will be necessary to either identify town owned land set aside for wetlands or to fund at .20 cents per square foot of disturbed area.

Estimated disturbed area is approximately 97,000 sq. feet. Follow up with DES to determine which properties in Grantham could be conserved by easement for wetlands. Land must be within same watershed and of 22.5-45 acres in size.

Todd Cartier asked if plans are submitted to DES, are these locked in without deviation and the response from Jerry Coogan was that this only shows impact on wetlands at the park to DES. Their only interest was this and Warren Kimball added that DES seemed to want to help find solutions to the wetland concerns. More consideration was made about what wetlands would actually be impacted by soccer field and so was determined that the wetlands south of the swale was most liable. Other indicated sites of wetland are not to be impacted by any current development and can be used as is for parking, other town events or soccer practice fields.

Jerry Coogan then discussed cost estimates for a new 60 yd x 100 yd. youth soccer field and other planning ideas for additional phases at the Recreation Park. Cost estimates will be adjusted to reflect an improved access road, a utility plan, septic design, a pavilion, a softball field and other future developments. A master site plan will be developed to help support development plans for the Recreation Park and will be available at Town Meeting in March.

The general discussion then centered around placement of proposed developments, exempting placement of soccer field which had been pre-determined. There was concern from proposed estimates that some ideals of soccer field plans could be reduced in drainage needs and overall reduction of other various line items presented. The interest was to reduce the cost of the field but still manage to make the most of the funds awarded by Timken Family Foundation.

Discussion then centered around public awareness that the funds from the sale of the Wien House should be retained for development of the park. A press release will be issued by Becky, emails will be sent out by Marsha and other various notifications will be used to heighten awareness that these funds are being earmarked by other entities for their use.

It must be stressed that the Timken Grant needs matching funds to be awarded and that development of the park is a very real and necessary thing. The athletic programs offered by the town has seen tremendous growth in soccer and baseball/softball and without the development of these fields, the athletic programs will not thrive. This work will also make the Recreation Park a more viable asset to the town and its residents for years to come.

Becky asked for a functional needs plan for the soccer field from Jerry Coogan.

Additional conversation centered on the estimated permitting timeline for the wetlands and finalizing notifications and construction bidding.

On February 23 at 7 p.m. the Grantham Recreation Park Committee agreed to hold a public awareness meeting to help interested residents of Grantham understand the needs and development of the park and the impact at Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marsha Googins

Athletic Director/Rec. Park Committee member