

MINUTES

**Seymour High School Athletic Field Committee Meeting Thursday, April 2, 2015 @
7:00 p.m. Seymour Middle School Library**

Members Present: Sean Walsh, Jay Hatfield, Jack Liedke, Tim Sadick, Paul Sponheimer, Ed Strumello, Theresa Conroy, Paul Roy (Alt.)(7:08), Nicole Klarides-Ditria (7:16), Bill Paecht

Members Not Present:

Others Present: Rick Belden, Todd Romagna, Jim Galligan, Nafis & Young, Bill Aniskovich, WBA Group

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Hatfield opened the meeting and Ms. Klarides-Ditria took over upon her arrival at 7:16 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment

A Call was made for public comment.

Public comment was then closed.

ITEM #4: Chairperson's comments

The graduation has been moved and the committee is hopeful that they will get a better timeline today as to when things can start.

Chairperson's comments were then closed.

ITEM #5: Approve minutes from March 19, 2015 meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from March 19, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Sean Walsh

Vote: 8 – Yes 0 – No 1 – 0

Item number five is closed.

ITEM#6: Discussion with SHS Athletic Director, Ed Rostowski.

Mr. Rostowski was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Belden spoke to Mr. Rostowski. He stated that a question was posed regarding the ramifications would be if the September games weren't played and would there be cost implications. There are two home games and two away games scheduled for September and Mr. Rostowski indicated that if the home games were moved, there would be a cost for busses but wont have to pay for the officials, so it kind of offsets. One of the games is against Ansonia and there is an arrangement in place to split the gate so there still would be proceeds from that game. He didn't feel there would be any significant financial implications if the project moved into September.

Ed Strumello asked about soccer games. Mr. Belden indicated it would be the same situation with soccer. There are busses and referees, but the number of games was not indicated.

Mr. Sponheimer stated that when this occurred in 2000, the following year the towns flipped locations. For example if we went there in 2000, the following year they came to us. He asked if Mr. Rostowski could look into that.

Mr. Belden stated he would get more information on soccer and report back to the chair and find out about the reciprocation of locations.

Mr. Hatfield suggested that if soccer had an away game against a team later in the season, they flip flop the locations.

Mr. Hatfield asked that since the graduation had been moved, what the best process for the committee would be to be able to firm up an actual start date once Mr. Galligan gave his timeline. Mr. Belden stated that the spring sport schedule ends sometime early May but he will get that date from Mr. Rostowski so the committee could move forward with their plans.

Mr. Hatfield asked if he should ask for a formal motion at the board meeting to say the committee wants to break ground on a certain day to make things smoother. Mr. Belden stated that the committee could move forward at this juncture. He will find out the dates from Mr. Rostowski and coordinate with Parks and Rec and from that point on the committee can decide the date they want their demolition and the program will be adjusted accordingly. Mr. Strumello does not feel that the committee needs a motion that Mr. Hatfield was suggesting.

A Motion to seat Paul Roy as alternate member for this evening's meeting.

Theresa Conroy Second: Sean Walsh

Motion: Vote: 8–Yes 0 No 1–Abstain

Item number six was then closed.

ITEM#7: Discussion with Todd Romagna, Chairman of Oxford Turf and Athletic Complex.

Todd Romagna was asked to come and speak to the committee about his experience and answer any questions the committee may have.

Mr. Romagna stated he could possibly help give advice on what happens after the project is done.

Mr. Sponheimer asked him what he would do differently at this point than he did. Mr. Romagna stated that once the field was finished, the maintenance of the field is something to take into consideration. Make sure you know who is going to be maintaining the turf, maintaining the grounds. He stated they ended up going about 8 months to a year before they acquired field turf to do the maintenance. That works best for Oxford. Since Seymour has a large Department of Public Works, he thinks they could probably handle it but to at least get them the training on how to do it. He said keeping track of maintenance on the field is important, especially since the first year doesn't require a lot of maintenance. But after that you really have to start, when the field starts getting to its peak, it starts to settle in and it needs to be maintained. By end of year one, you want a good maintenance system in place.

Mr. Hatfield asked Mr. Romagna to expand on the agreement with Field Turf. Mr. Romagna wasn't sure about the exact dollar amount and he didn't want to guess. In Oxford's contract, they had some of the maintenance equipment included as part of their quote and the equipment is still just sitting there. All of Oxford's fields are subcontracted out. Mr. Walsh asked if Field Turf offered a training program for the staff. Mr. Romagna stated they did and at no charge. He stated they came out twice so Oxford Public Works and Oxford Janitorial staff got independent training.

Mr. Sponheimer asked if Oxford purchased equipment. He stated the equipment was within Oxford's quote. The equipment they have is all tow behind. No power equipment was purchased. One sweeper and one kicker/fluffer. He said to make sure you have the right equipment to use on the field.

Mr. Strumello and Ms. Conroy believe the legislature is pushing to share regionally. If Oxford isn't using their equipment everyday, could there be a way Seymour could rent Oxford's equipment. Mr. Paecht stated concerns regarding the labor costs and downtime involved with having someone pick up and return the equipment. Also if it breaks when it's being rented, if we'd be responsible to pay for the full tab. Mr. Walsh suggested that if the money is available to purchase their own, then to do it.

Mr. Aniskovich stated that grooming should be done every eighty hours roughly. The spec that he writes includes a groomer and a sweeper provided. They also come and train your personnel on the best way to maintain the field. Usually all that is needed is a John Deere to pull the piece of equipment. He doesn't know how Field Turf's spec is written but the only thing with the warranty is that you have to maintain the field in a proper manor. It doesn't mean you have to use them to do it. There are companies that specialize in turf maintenance. APW Enterprises is one such company. Really it's basic maintenance every eighty hours or so is sufficient.

Ms. Klarides-Ditria clarified that Field Turf will come and train our people how to do everything and provide a time schedule for every maintenance required. Mr. Aniskovich stated that his spec requires that they leave additional rubber so it can be used and not

have to go out and buy more for a while. He also requires that they come back after one year to redo the GMAX testing to make sure that it stays within the required range. Ms. Klarides-Ditria asked how often the GMAX testing is done. Mr. Aniskovich stated the turf company should do it every year. After that one year an outside company can be hired to do the testing and he feels it would be better that way. Mr. Paecht asked if the turf comes out and checks the seams. Mr. Aniskovich stated that he comes and checks himself and walks the field. He said that once the job is done he has them test the GMAX and then a year later they come back and test again so you know that it is in the acceptable range.

Ms. Klarides-Ditria asked Mr. Romagna when he did his project in Oxford, did they bid out each part separately, the GC, the turf, the bleachers, or was it all inclusive. He stated they bid out separately. They bid the bleachers, the site work, the turf, the lighting, the electrical and the rubberized asphalt. They didn't have a GC, they GC'd it themselves with Mr. Galligan's help and a Clerk of the Works. He stated there was a committee formed a few years before he became involved and so there was a lot of narrowing down before he got there. Some things narrowed down were the type of bleachers, the type of turf. They had a good idea where they wanted to start at that point. Their turf is going on two years.

Mr. Sponheimer asked if there were conflicts with all the separate bidding. Mr. Romagna said that Mr. Galligan did a great job orchestrating and that a lot of these guys work together all the time and generally speaking it flowed very nicely.

Ms. Klarides-Ditria asked if Oxford didn't have the Clerk of the Works, would he feel it would have gone so smoothly. He said without the Clerk of the Works and Mr. Galligan working together it would not have gone as smoothly because there is a learning curve, and they were able to talk at that level.

Mr. Strumello asked if there was one thing he would do differently what would it be. Mr. Romagna stated that he thinks it is really great that the committee is considering putting turf in the D areas. At their field, they have the rubberized asphalt in those areas and what he's found is that when you have visiting teams come in, at one point or another they are in that area in cleats. Despite having padding to walk across the track, once they get into the D area, or if teams have no place to warm up on the field, they use the D areas and they have to be kicked off. The flack he's heard: football has had no complaints but soccer had some issues with lettering in the end zone, some of the markings on the field with alternating colors was a concern for them as well.

Mr. Romagna stated that he knows that if there are any conflicts with fields, they'd be more than willing to use their fields since Seymour and Oxford are on opposite schedules.

Item number seven was then closed.

ITEM#8 Discussion with architecture/engineering firm

Mr. Sponheimer asked about the rubber that Mr. Aniskovich mentioned would be included in his spec because he is concerned about storage. Mr. Aniskovich stated it comes in bags and there will be 2,000 pounds and that they would also leave excess turf

which is recommended to be laid out on a roof so that it ages the same way the field is aging in terms of UV rays, so if you ever had to replace it won't look out of place.

Ms. Klarides-Ditria asked if the construction companies needed to use Sponheimer Field to put trucks on or for storage. Mr. Galligan stated that they are anticipating that the bleacher guy will use the space by the press box, the site guy will use the space in front of the concession stand and that most of his stuff will be out of the way by the time the turf guy comes and that his stuff will be out of the way by the time the rubberized asphalt guy comes. The other area the site guy will use is on Gesek Field as well.

Bill Paecht stated that they would probably not put any teams up there this spring and move everyone onto different fields because of the equipment and safety issues. He is in touch with Pop Warner and is trying to come up with a solution with the president.

Ms. Klarides-Ditria asked Mr. Belden how many seats were needed for graduation. He stated 1,200.

Mr. Sponheimer asked what made up the eighty hours of use and how many hours did he account for football and soccer games. Mr. Aniskovich stated to figure out the time spent on the field, whenever the field is in use regardless of the sport.

Mr. Walsh asked for a rough estimate on what is charged for yearly testing for the GMAX so that it can be figured into the budget. Mr. Aniskovich stated that they charge by the numbers of spots that they test but all totaled they're out there for a day and they give a written report, and roughly \$300.00-\$400.00.

Ms. Klarides-Ditria asked if Field Turf has a FIFA performance rating, and is it a one or a two. Mr. Aniskovich was not aware of what she was referring to. She stated that one rating is a field that is appropriate for a high school and the other would be a college and professional rating. It is a star rating that gauges the turf and how well it performs. Mr. Sponheimer stated that the Revolution turf is the professional rating because it is the same one that Gillette Stadium uses. Mr. Aniskovich said he would look into that. Ms. Klarides-Ditria asked what the GMAX is recommended for field turf, and that it is usually 165 or under. Mr. Aniskovich stated that the recommended GMAX is 140 and they all have to comply with that. Mr. Sponheimer stated 115-110 initial setting and that 140 is the maximum and you would have to shut down.

Mr. Galligan stated that the contractor for the bleachers would be arriving the following day. Planning and Zoning will be meeting on the 9th and that the project is on the agenda. Once they get the flagging report, they will work with the wetlands commission. Once the borings are done, the bleacher contractor will be able to get the final price for the bleachers and that is expected in one week.

The plan at this point is to advertise the site contract on April 16, have the opening on April 28, which will give a couple days to evaluate the bids. He will come to the committee on April 30 and make the recommendation.

He is currently planning to have the site contractor add an alternate to his bid. They will specify four turf manufacturers, Field turf, Spring Turf, Shaws, and Astro Turf. Those are the four that he feels are the most competent. There are other suppliers that are going to want to bid. They are looking at contractors that have installations for the last five years. The reason he brings that up is because of the phone calls the committee will most likely be receiving from other companies wanting to bid. They will find out who you are and try to get a bid in. He stated that they feel that the four contractors he just mentioned are the ones the committee should select from.

In the bid documents they will specify that the site contractor be completed with his work by July 15 that the turf contractor will be done by August 15 and the rubberized asphalt will be done by September 1. That is the schedule they are establishing at this point. They are making an asserted effort not to upset the fall sports. Those times that he just stated allow for things like weather. For instance the turf supplier, he's going to put the turf down in about two and a half to three weeks. This schedule gives him four just to make account for any unforeseen thing that comes up.

The site contractor is going to have the field ready on July 15. That does not mean he will be finished on the job, there will be stuff on Gesek field that he will have to do. He will have to have the field ready for the turf supplier by July 15. He will then move on to other things outside the football/soccer field.

July 15- August 15 the turf contractor will be doing his job.

The bleachers base bid will be 1,500 seats with an alternate for a press box so that if the project allows for a press box they will put that in. The site contractor contract will have the bid alternate for demoing the existing press box. If it is then decided to go ahead and have the funds for the new press box, they will then authorize the site contractor to demo the existing press box. If the funds are not available for the press box they will tell them not to demo the press box. Theresa asked how much the press box would be estimated at. Mr. Galligan stated \$75,000-\$80,000.

There will also be an alternate in the bleachers for away bleachers. There will be a bid alternate in the site contractors contract for the padding for the bleachers. So, if it is decided to not do the press box but to replace the old away bleachers, he will then authorize the site contractor. It has been their experience that with the bid alternates, as long as it is well defined, it works smoothly.

Mr. Sponheimer asked if the visiting bleachers were replaced, would the existing bleachers be usable elsewhere. Mr. Galligan stated that they are just bleachers, so if you move them somewhere else you can retro fit them for handicapped access.

The rubberized asphalt base bid will be the solid blue. The alternate bid will be the sandwich system. The standard asphalt color red is less expensive than picking any other color. They range between \$55 and \$58 per square yard.

The plan is to have the turf down and done and ready by the middle of August. Should that not work as smoothly as he stated, one of the things he will be looking for early in the fall an away game for the football team and have the asphalt guy come in during that away week and do it then.

The bleachers will come in during mid summer. It's about a four and five month process. Being able to use the bleacher co-op and having the graduation moved makes a huge difference in scheduling and cost. If the bleachers had to be bid out and contractors were told they had to start late in June and still meet the schedule, they would be marking up their costs.

Ms. Klarides-Ditria clarified why the bleachers were able to be a co-op and the turf was not and that is because the bleachers are considered a renovation where the turf is brand new and that is why the turf is not allowed in the co-op. That is the explanation Mr. Galligan was given.

Mr. Sadick asked if they would be able to bid the track out prior to the site contract so the alternate decisions could be based knowing there will be enough money to do the track. Mr. Galligan stated all the prices will be together in a pretty close timeframe. It won't be all at the same time, but close.

Mr. Strumello is concerned with using the Revolution and connecting it with the Patriots because he feels the community would take issue with using a professional grade turf for Seymour. He thinks the committee should be careful using the association with the New England Patriots. Mr. Aniskovich stated that all the manufacturers have professional stadiums.

Mr. Walsh asked about the contract with the engineer/architect. Ms. Klarides-Ditria said it would be addressed at next Tuesday's meeting.

Mr. Sponheimer asked if each of the turf companies made their own turf. Mr. Aniskovich said that all four companies have their own factories, which is another reason he likes the four he chose.

Mr. Sponheimer asked what it meant when he said the wetlands would be flagged. Mr. Galligan stated that if you drove by today you'd see orange flags hung by a soil scientist. They pick those lines up and go to the wetlands commission.

Item number eight was then closed.

ITEM#9 Committee member comments

Paul Roy: No comment

Paul Sponheimer: Board of Ed who made the decision to relinquish, his hat is off to them.

Jack Liedke: No comment

Jay Hatfield: Echo Ed's comments

Bill Paecht: No comment

Ed Strumello: The Board of Ed and Administration's solution was wonderful for the project.

Tim Sadick: No comment

Sean Walsh: His comments are regarding training on the maintenance of the field.

Nicole Klarides-Ditria: Thank you to the Administration and the Board of Ed for making the decision to move graduation to the softball field. She feels the softball field is going to be a great spot for graduation because you get to use the school as a backdrop.

Hopefully there will be a new spot for graduation.
Theresa Conroy: No comment

Ed Strumello asked Mr. Galligan if he would be attending the April 6 Board of Ed meeting. He stated he had planned on it but based on the decision that has been brought down he was not.

Mr. Sponheimer asked if one someone could take a picture of the potential finished project to that meeting.

Item nine was then closed.

ITEM #10: Adjournment

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion: Bill Paecht Second: Jack Liedke Vote: 9—Yes 0 No 0—Abstain

Respectfully Submitted, Angela Chernesky