

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
ATHLETIC FIELD COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL
41 WEST STREET, CROMWELL, CT 06416**

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JoAnn Doyle
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**Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 5th, 2023**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ferrarese at 7:02 PM.

Roll Call:

Present: Ms. Maher, Ms. Franklin, Mr. Brisson, Mrs. Russ, Mr. Ferrarese, Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Zabroski,

Absent: Mr. Vinchetti(Alt)

II. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion to approve February minutes by Mrs. Russ. Second by Mr. LeBlanc. Approval unanimous.

III. Project Discussion

The group reviewed the various proposals from Clough & Harbor Associates (CHA) as well as follow on proposals from Mr. LeBlanc.

CHA's proposals 1-3 elicited the following comments:

1. The group felt that they were largely the same as the current HS layout with no optimization of the space or consideration of other options.
2. There were concerns that the Track & Field venues (Discus, Shot put & Javelin) in those proposals might interfere with other activities in an unsafe manner if running concurrently.
3. In some of the options, the track & field were on other playing fields and could cause damage to those fields.
4. There were concerns that the bleachers on the far side of the field would be costly to implement because that area of the field is sloped downward and would require retention walls and additional site work to bring it flat which could interfere with underground electrical in the area.
5. The group was concerned about light pollution and the surrounding neighbors due to the taller and brighter lights needed for football.
6. The additional parking was welcomed.
7. The tennis court location on the other side of the complex was welcomed although at least 6 courts are needed to hold home matches.
8. There did not appear to be any restrooms in the proposal.
9. The group could not see a press box and planned to ask about that.

Mr. LeBlanc's proposals 4 & 5 elicited the following comments:

1. The main field layout was better suited to a primary sports venue for the HS

2. The improved access to the locker rooms from the main field was welcomed.
3. The collocated, concessions, ticketing, restrooms, and press box were welcomed.
4. The large bleachers and close proximity to the parking lot was welcomed
5. Locating the main field closer to the school eliminated the light pollution concern from proposals 1-3. It also opened the possibility of lighting the baseball field behind it.
6. The group was concerned about home run balls from the baseball field entering the main field during concurrent events and asked if the baseball field could be rotated to prevent this.
7. The location of the javelin and discus on the Practice football field was questioned. Events could damage the field which is already in rough shape
8. The additional parking was welcomed but the parking access to Reiman Drive was questioned.
9. The tennis court location was welcomed and the orientation in #5 was the most preferred but needed 2 more courts to accommodate home games.
10. The location of fields #2 and #3 were welcomed since they could benefit from the existing light poles. However, the light poles were not shown on the plan so the fields needed to be reviewed to see if they could fit.

The group also discussed the location of existing electrical, drain and sewer lines on the property and their impact on the new proposals.

After reviewing all of the proposals, the group agreed that proposals 4 and 5 were more in the direction that the committee would like to see the project go. The group asked Mr. LeBlanc to make a few changes to his design to accommodate the group's comments and then resubmit it to the group.

Finally, the group proposed setting up a discussion with the Town Manager and Town Engineer to review all of the proposals one final time before submitting comments to CHA.

IV. Discussion and Approval of Future Meeting Schedule

Review of existing committee dates: 5/3, 6/7, 6/25, 8/2

Group discussed additional dates as follows: 9/6, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6

Motion to approve additional dates by Mrs. Franklin, Second by Mrs. Russ. Approval unanimous.

V. General Discussion

Group discussed various fundraising options for the project to help offset the impact of the projects cost to the town. Methods of private funding were discussed as well as State, federal, and commercial funding opportunities. Group agreed to look into various fundraising methods and discuss at a later date.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Zabroski, 2nd by Mrs. Franklin. All in favor. Meeting adjourned
at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jason LeBlanc

Jason LeBlanc

Alternate Field Layout #6 Cromwell HS Complex

Benefits

Main field

- Center piece of sport complex. First thing you see when you drive down the drive
- Closer to locker rooms in school with access path directly to field
- Away from parking so lacrosse balls won't hit cars
- New lights for main field can also illuminate CHS Baseball field
- Separated Home and Away bleachers for enhanced security during football games
- Eliminates need for bleachers on far side of field
- Closer wi-fi link for field and press box and NFHS camera
- Shorter walk from parking for people with disabilities
- Centrally located ticketing for better security

Bathrooms

- New Men's & Women's Bathrooms to replace Porto-lets

Parking

- Additional parking for events
- Main access path extended to Orchard Rd for overflow parking

Baseball

- Reoriented to homeruns from entering main field
- Bench and press box closer to school

Track & Field

- Javelin, Discus & Shotput will not interfere with other play areas.

Secondary Fields 2 & 3

- Will benefit from existing lighting

Walking Path

- Rerouted popular walking path around back of main field

