



**Town of West Newbury  
Planning Board  
Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
381 Main Street, Town Office Building  
[www.wnewbury.org](http://www.wnewbury.org)  
**Minutes of Meeting****

**Open Session:** 7:00 PM by remote participation (see below)

**Addendum to Meeting Notice regarding Remote Participation:**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 Of the Acts of 2021, “An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency”, Approved by the Governor, June 16, 2021, which extended permissions for boards and commissions to conduct remote meetings, the Planning Board conducted its meeting via remote participation. The meeting agenda included instructions for the public about how to participate remotely. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that it has been unable to do so, despite best efforts, the Board will post on the Town of West Newbury website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Chairperson Ann Bardeen called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. Members in attendance were Ann Bardeen, Ray Cook, Tim Cronin, and Brian Murphey. Deb Hamilton was not in attendance. Town Planner Sue Brown and Administrative Assistant Katelyn Bradstreet were also in attendance. All participated via Zoom Conference.

**1. 7:15 PM Public Hearing - Special Permit for Lighting at Pentucket Regional Middle High School**

Bardeen opened the public hearing by reading the public hearing legal notice. Brad Dore, of Whittier and Dore, represented the Pentucket Regional Middle High School. Dore explained that Pentucket is looking to install field lighting on the stadium side/southern end of the site. On the northern portion of the site, Pentucket is looking to install lighting on the field hockey field and the practice/baseball fields. Dore stated that the building was officially turned over to Pentucket Regional School District “PRSD.” Dore explained that with respect to the budget and the money saved during the project, funding for the field lighting is now possible. Dore discussed the illumination summary from Musco Lighting. Based on the modeling work, Dore stated there is no light trespass off site. Justin Bartholomew, Superintendent of Pentucket Regional School District, stated that he doesn’t see any events going past 10:00 P.M. Ray Cook questioned if other schools in the district played Friday night football and if so, what time do they normally end. Bartholomew stated most games start around 6:30-7:00 P.M, at the latest, and normally last about two hours. Cook questioned which other nights Bartholomew expects the field to be in use. Bartholomew stated that the high school teams normally have practice and games during the afternoon but expects the Pentucket Youth organizations to be using the fields later in the afternoon/early evening. Cook also questioned if abutters would be able to see the days and times the fields were being used. Bartholomew stated it should be an easy task to add the schedule onto the main Pentucket webpage for abutters to view. Cook stated it would be a great idea to establish a policy that would allow more of a set schedule on the days and times the fields can be in use. Cook recommended there be an approval process if an organization requests to use the fields/lighting past the set schedule.

Scott Davis, an abutter on the Groveland side of the project, stated that no lighting was put into the original plan for the project and that Pentucket has gone 60+ years without lighting so why the need for lighting now? Dore stated funds were not available during the initial project plan but have since become available. Dore also stated that the lighting will allow the students more time to enjoy the artificial turf. Davis stated that physically seeing the lights

from his house is problematic. Davis showed concern regarding the time frame that the field lighting would be used. Davis stated if the lighting was used five nights per week until 10 o'clock – it would pose a problem. Bardeen stated she was surprised to hear that the Pentucket fields would also be used by the youth sports organizations in all three towns in the district. Bartholomew stated all three towns would be able to use the fields since taxpayers in all three towns contributed to the Pentucket School project. Bartholomew stated that each town does have their own fields to use such as Pipestave in West Newbury, etc. Cook reiterated that more of a set schedule would be beneficial. Davis agreed. Murphey also brought up to Bartholomew that a set schedule needs to be put into place. Bartholomew stated that right now, he is unsure of what the practice days are for the youth sports organizations and could not set a schedule at this time. Bartholomew agreed to propose a set schedule.

**Public hearing to be continued at next meeting on Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.**

## **2. General Business:**

- No change in MBTA zoning district. Murphey questioned who the Town is looking for as possible consultants. Brown stated there is a list from the State but Town manager, Angus Jennings, has not decided yet.
- Stormwater working group had a long discussion regarding the authority, the potential fees for submittal and review, etc.
- Solar Bylaw meeting with Tim Cronin, Rick Parker and Chip Wallace. Brown hoping to meet again in early January.
- **Minutes – December 6, 2022; Others, if any**
  - Bardeen moved to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022, as amended. Seconded by Cronin. Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 3-0 (Hamilton not in attendance and Murphey abstained).
- **Correspondence:** No correspondence.
- **Administrative Details:** The Planning Office will be open Tuesday-Thursday the week of Christmas and the following week of January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Placement of Items for Future Planning Board Agendas:**
  - Continues Public Hearing for Pentucket Field Lighting
  - Stormwater Management Regulations
  - Discussion on slopes
- **Items not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of a Meeting:**
  - Chapter 91 Application for the Middle Street Bridge
    1. The Town of West Newbury and the City of Newburyport filed a joint application for a DEP License that is required to improve the Middle Street bridge over Artichoke reservoir.
  - MVPC Meeting
    1. Murphey attended the Mayors and Managers meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> about MBTA Communities. Murphey stated there were a few towns that did not submit the required paperwork. In response, the State sent out notices that Towns need to show intent or they will be withholding \$300,000 from Housing Authority budget in the City of Waltham.

## **Adjournment:**

**Bardeen moved to adjourn the 8:24 P.M meeting. Seconded by Cook. Roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 4-0 (Hamilton not in attendance).**

Respectfully submitted,

Katelyn Bradstreet, *Administrative Assistant to the Planning Board*