

Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2025 5:30PM

Deerfield Town Hall

Present: Beth Brown, Emily Bedell, Gretchen Bysiewski, Eileen Skribiski-Banack, Meg Washburn

Absent: Rod Warnick, Jeff Galli

Guest: Sue Antonellis, Darius Modestow, Kathy Sylvester

Discussion of recommendation from Recreation Committee to support the use of CPA funds for Phase 1 of the playground at DES

Darius presented information regarding improvements to the PK- grade 4 playground. There will be 3 phases. The need exists because the soil underneath the present surface has been washed out 6-8 inches in places and is a hazard, wood chips are everywhere making it inaccessible for wheel chair use. The following will be removed: erosion control barrier, some playground equipment, wood edging, wood chips, current rubber surface, concrete pavement. Improvements include: wheelchair swing, new play equipment, new rubberized safety surface with a crushed stone sub-base, new drainage and a new concrete edge. The existing big structure will remain.

The cost is \$386,652. The school will fund \$186,652 and they would like \$200,000 from CPA funds. DES has already spent \$20,000 on the engineering and design of all 3 phases. They must wait to secure funding before they go out to bid. He expects bids from numerous companies.

Phase 2 is the pre-school area for \$310,00 and phase 3 is the basketball courts for \$64,000.

Concerns were raised about depleting the CPA funds, new money comes in every year from CPA on taxes and from the state. Asked if any grants are available from playground companies or any handicapped grants- said minimal amounts if any. Questioned the amount of time the playground was accessible to the general public. It cannot be used during school hours or when the after school program is there until 5:30 on weekdays. During the summer the River Valley program is there until 5:30.

Motion: The Recreation Committee to support Phase 1 of the DES playground renovation- Beth
2nd- Eileen Vote- yes

Basketball

Sue expressed concerns of unsportsmanlike behavior with a few children playing basketball. She has spoken to 3 teams as a whole and in the past couple of weeks a few individuals. She has told them if they will get a technical foul if that behavior continues. The committee also would like to implement a game misconduct, so they would be removed from the game and miss the next game.

