

CITY OF NEWTON

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE
AND POST AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010

9 PM

Room 209

ITEM SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO POST AUDIT AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

#107-10 ALD. YATES, LAPPIN, FREEDMAN, FISCHMAN AND HESS-MAHAN
requesting an update on the Newton South High School athletic field drainage
project. [03/15/10 @ 12:09 PM]

All other items before the Committee will be held without discussion.

City of Newton



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

March 29, 2010

To: Robert R. Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

From: Lou Taverna, City Engineer

Via: Tom Daley, Commissioner

Subject: Newton South High School Athletic Fields and Track Facilities
Status of Construction March 2010

As you may be aware, the construction of the Newton South High School Athletic Fields and Track Facilities is not completed, and will continue through June of 2010. The construction effort was delayed due to the citizens' appeal of the Conservation Commission's Orders of Conditions, and the subsequent citizens' appeal of the Department of Environmental Protection's Superseding Orders of Conditions. The contractor worked on site until early December 2009, and will return this month to complete the work by the end of June.

Remaining items to be completed include the following;

The track area around the football field (the westerly field with the bleachers) needs final asphalt paving, and installation of the top rubber surface. Additional synthetic turf also needs to be placed on the westerly edge of the field. This work will be completed in May.

The softball field outfield (the field second in from Brandeis Road) was not completed in the fall. The entire surface needs to be rolled, and finished with loam and grass turf. However, the softball outfield is not drying properly due to the shade trees. The area is in shade in the fall, winter, and spring. The civil engineer from Gale Associates will design additional subsurface drainage features to properly drain the outfield, which will be installed in April.

The baseball field (the field adjacent to the football field) is not yet completed. The pitcher's mound needs to be installed.

The soccer field (closest to Brandeis Road) is not completed. The contractor needs to roll and rake the synthetic turf surface, and remove excess sand and silt deposited there during construction, so that it will properly drain.

The long narrow area between the softball and baseball outfields and the abutting properties was designed and constructed as a surface drainage swale, to shed surface water from the fields. This area will be used as a cross country course. The drainage swale is working according to its design, channeling the water to the low points of the swale. However, a series of catch basins at the low points of the drainage swale, including one near the baseball field scoreboard, are covered with silt sacks, in order to keep sedimentation from the drainage system during construction, as per the Orders of Conditions. The silt sacks must remain in place during the remainder of construction, and can be removed with permission of the Conservation Agent, most likely upon issuance of a Certificate of Compliance at the completion of the project this summer. The silt sacks are trapping silt and sand on the surface, preventing this material from entering the storm drain system. Therefore the catch basins are not draining the surface water, and surface water is clearly visible. Once the silt sacks are removed from the catch basins, the drainage swale will drain properly, and will shed surface water from the fields.

Regarding the back yards of the abutters, these areas were always wet during rain events. The stormwater is coming from upstream contributory areas (the direction of Littlefield Road and Winston Road, via the front yards) not the athletic fields, as the athletic fields and drainage swale are lower than the back yards. This was explained at the numerous public hearings held during the design process. As mentioned above, the drainage swale was designed to channel the stormwater from the fields and from the abutting properties. Once construction is completed, the surface water will drain to the drainage swale.

As per the Superseding Orders of Conditions, and the Settlement Agreement between the City and the concerned citizens, the first round of environmental sampling testing has been performed in January. Another round is scheduled for spring.

The synthetic turf fields performed very well during the storm event of March 13 to 16. The synthetic turf fields drained completely, as they were designed to do. The natural grass fields take longer to drain during storm events such as these.

The Athletic Director of Newton South High School is pleased overall with the performance of the athletic fields to date. Both the synthetic football field and synthetic soccer field were successfully used in the fall of 2009 (during construction), and will continue to be used in the spring. The track is scheduled to be ready by Memorial Day weekend. The baseball field is ready to use this spring. The softball field requires another season of natural grass growth, and will not be available until the fall.

See attached memo from the design engineers of record, Gale Associates, explaining the status of construction in further detail.

Please pass this memo on to the Board of Aldermen.

cc: Bob DeRubeis, Parks and Recreation
Scott Perrin, NSHS Athletic Director
David Olsen, City Clerk