In attendance: Dianne Ackerman (chairperson), Stephanie Fourie (vice-chair), Kevin Lanahan & Bruce DiBisceglie (Recreation Director). Charlotte Fourie & Kristen Ackerman (student representatives), Brennan Reilly (Borough Council President)

1. **Communications**
   1. The February 2023 Mendham Borough Recreation Committee (MBRC) meeting minutes were approved as is.
      1. Approved Minutes have been posted by Bruce to the Mendham Borough website.
   2. Communications:
      1. Vicky Norton (booklet)
      2. Field & Facility inquiries
      3. Day Camp applications
      4. Band Correspondence / contracts
      5. Brenden Reilly (Baseball)
   3. Meetings:
      1. February 22, Bruce/Joyce
         1. Addressed new Day Camp employee pay structure and corrective action plan.
      2. Jan 11, Feb 15 & Mar 15, Day Camp Directors meetings
         1. Addressed Job Positions/Roles; Expectations; Summer Calendar of events; Finalization of Special Events and Arts & Crafts; Updated Health/Medical Forms to compliance.
2. **2023 Day Camp Hiring**
   1. As of March 16, 2023, the number of applicants was 64 people.
      1. This is 1.5% higher than the total number of applicants as of March 16, 2022.
3. **2023 Facility Request Status**
   1. Bruce has posted the Indoor Calendar and the Outdoor Calendar the Borough website.
   2. Tennis Court / QR reservation process is being renewed for 2023.
4. **Old Business**
   1. The Chester/Mendham Baseball/Softball proposal to alter Brough Park fields was vetted.
      1. The proposal made by CMBS at the February meeting was reviewed.
         1. Remaining issues are maintenance, safety, value-added benefits to Mendham Borough, and an exit strategy.
            1. CMBS proposes that Mendham Borough DPW maintain the modifications.

With past modifications, Little League agreed to groom the infields at baseball’s expense.

Kevin pointed out that this evolved into DPW maintenance and additional work for the Borough, and that this could happen again.

Jeff added that DPW is only responsible for cutting outfield grass.

* + - * 1. The possible safety of a grass infield was discussed. Kevin offered valuable insight.

While grass will slow infield ground balls, the lip at the edge of the grass can result in unexpected bounces.

* + - * 1. Potential benefits to the Borough were discussed and anticipated as minimal.

Bruce compared this to the turf field upgrade by WMSC.

The turf field project gave the Borough a new asset at no cost to the Borough.

WMSC provided a fully developed exit strategy.

For this CMBS proposal, the majority of beneficiaries of these modifications might be players from the Chesters and Mendham Township, as Mendham Borough is a minority participant within the CMBS group.

* + - * 1. While CMBS stated that no exit strategy is needed, the MBRC holds that an exit strategy is still needed as past field modification projects, including 46x60 conversions to 50x70, had no exit strategy and the fields were left to deteriorate.
    1. Bruce shared email/proxy submissions regarding field modifications from Jeff Cooper, Ned Panfile, and Rob D’Urso.
       1. Jeff Cooper had several concerns from a DPW perspective:
          1. Grass will not improve drainage.
          2. Proper installation of grass may require the closure of the fields for 4-5 months while new sod establishes.
          3. DPW question: Will CMBS water the new sod daily as required for proper installation, or will the work (and expense) be expected to be done by Mendham Borough?
          4. On Upper (Elliot) and Lower (Lenape) fields, there is a real possibility of baseballs being hit onto playgrounds, tennis courts, and residential property.
          5. Existing pitching mounds would need to be removed and rebuilt.
       2. Both Ned and Rob supported DPW’s concerns and recommended not to move forward with this proposal.
    2. MBRC members discussed a possibility of fencing, and there were concerns about aesthetics.
       - 1. Residents objected to the height of the scoreboard on Elliot when it was installed.
         2. Similar concerns could be raised about fencing.
         3. Fencing could take away from the open views and pathways through the park.
    3. Brennen recommended dividing the discussion into two parts. Grass infields and dimension modification of all three baseball fields in Borough Park.
       1. The MBRC recommends that Lenape (lower) field remains a 46x60 field without grass due to the potential of balls being hit into the playground and residents’ property.
          1. The MBRC recommends that Doubleday Field remain a 60x90 field.

While baseball may desire grass infields, softball is not played with grass infields.

Mendham Borough already has a 60x90 field at Pastime Field.

* + 1. The recommendation by the MBRC was:
       1. No modifications to Lenape and Doubleday Fields.
       2. Possible modifications could still be possible, but only if all questions are answered by independent, trained, certified field construction professionals and not the CMBS organization itself.

1. **New Business**
   1. A proposal was made to update the Mendham Day Camp registration fee structure.
      1. Bruce shared that the increase in costs from 2022 to 2023 will be 15%.
      2. Bruce proposed an equal 15% increase to fees.
         1. 2022 fees were: early registration $86/week, regular registration $106/week, and late/walkup registration $126/week. Based on a 20-hour week, regular registration amounts to $5.30/hr.
         2. 2023 fee proposal is: early registration $99/week, regular registration $122/week, and late/walkup registration $145/week. . Based on a 20-hour week, new regular registration amounts to $6.10/hr.
      3. The MBRC unanimously agreed that the $99/$122/$145 structure was more than reasonable and voted to approve the new structure. The fees will be posted on the Borough’s Day Camp online Registration portal on April 1 when Camp Registration officially opens.
   2. The 2023 Labor Day Grand Marshals are Peter Cillo and William Fleming.

***Next Meeting: 7:30 pm, Thursday, April 20th, 2023, at the Garabrant Center***