

**Town of Andover
Veterans' Field Committee
Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Community Room**

PRESENT: Beata Gadomski, Julie Nunes, Sarah Becker, Grace Gostanian, Scott Person, Christine Randazzo, Michael Russo

ABSENT: Shannon O. Loudon (alternate), Brandie Sklodosky (alternate), Kim Lachut (alternate), Brian Briggs (alternate)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Co-Chair Russo, who led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call – all member were present

3. Public Comment – none

4. Additions or changes to the Agenda - none

5. Approve minutes from prior meeting

C. Randazzo made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2024 Regular Committee Meeting, seconded by S. Becker. No discussion.

6-0-1 (PASSED)

6. Sub Committee Updates

A. Engineering Committee:

1. C. Randazzo, M. Russo, and E. Anderson met to discuss whether there will be a need for RFP bids and previous soccer field work completed by CLA Engineering. Should CLA Engineering were contracted to complete the survey and costs were below \$15,000 there would be no need for additional RFPs. If costs were above \$15,000, a second option would be to work with the town's engineer.
2. Additional discussion centered around the exact dimensions/requirements for the pickleball courts and playground area with specifications provided to Christine within the week. C. Randazzo provided a suggested playground design, Kloter

Farms as an option for Pavillion designs, and reiterated that site work/grading/trenching to be completed by Andover's public works department.

B. Playground Committee:

1. B. Gadowski visited Blish Park's playground in Marlborough. Their playscape is a "Kloter Farms" pressure treated wood design.
2. S. Becker shared several playscape design companies:
 - a. AES's PTA is working with McRectime(?) to update the school's playscape - will contact someone on the PTA to find out what will be included for the school so that the town's playscape will offer different "activities" for kids.
 - b. Creative Creations - town of Hebron is using this company.
 - c. Landscape Structures' local affiliate is O'Brine and Sons
 - d. Play By Design offers community builds - volunteers will be needed to construct the playscape.
 - e. Additional discussion centered around the location/square footage of the playground and insuring the playground is truly accessible for all.

C. Pickleball Committee:

1. S. Person met with the Hebron Parks and Rec representative and shared the following:
 - a. Will use a paving company for the courts
 - b. Fencing contractors with the state of Connecticut
 - c. Estimated cost \$120,000 including 10 ft fence and additional \$45,000 for light
 - d. Possibility of expanding the area to include a tennis court

D. Fundraising Committee:

- A. M. Russo shared the following opportunities for community support
 1. Hartford Foundation of Giving provides grants for community projects
 2. Currently have an anonymous donor - perhaps reach out to community for matching donations
 3. AARP grants for pickleball
 4. Community members may elect to donate a bench, equipment, "buy a brick" for the pathway

7. New Business Items:

- A. J. Nunes shared about her visit to Adam's Adventure in Tolland. Special notes: plaques to recognize donors and nice pavilion.
- B. Additional committee members: B. Gadomski and J. Nunes were added to the playground committee
- C. For planning purposes, the playground committee and pickleball committee will each receive an estimated \$100,000.

8. Next Steps:

- A. Provide schematics to C. Randazzo ASAP so that the Engineering committee can move ahead with their work.
- B. Continue to gather information and/or rework locations for the playground and pickleball courts.

9. Adjournment:

S. Becker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., seconded by J. Nunes. No discussion.

7-0-0 (PASSED)

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Gostanian, Committee Member