

## Playing Fields-P&R Commission-June 21, 2023

### ***Original Two-Prong Plan***

- **Third Turf Field to address unmet field time requests and lack of proper field lighting. Resolution's defeat means:**
  - Continued shortage of lit fields
  - Continued concerns with grass fields
    - Overplaying leading to deterioration
    - Impact of droughts, particularly with Wilton now included on list of municipalities under water restrictions
    - Unfunded costs to maintain high quality grass fields
    - Lack of play when wet
  - Continued unfilled turf field requests, particularly for youth football and youth field hockey
  - Continued concerns about increased usage of turf fields by WHS teams
- **Middlebrook Playing Fields-\$500,000 budget for playing fields from ARPA Funds**
  - Funds expected to be adequate to
    - Develop a plan for the five fields
    - Install drainage and irrigation on fields 1, 2 and football field
  - Funds not adequate to grade fields, address the two remaining fields or improve existing lighting

### ***Questions***

- **Is focusing all monies on Middlebrook the best use of the \$500,000?**
- **Is there a better way to maximize the \$500,000?**

## Playing Fields-P&R Commission-June 21, 2023

***Additional Thoughts for Consideration-(\$500,000 will NOT fund all of these options. Cost estimates TBD):***

- **Are all Middlebrook fields equally critical?**
- **Should we light Guy Whitten and address field issues at the same time as the WHS drainage project?**
  - Install lights on both sides of the field. Will also help with dark parking lot and road
  - Install irrigation
  - Grade the field to eliminate the crown
  - Increase budget for sodding and maintenance
- **Address other lighting issues within the WHS Complex?**
  - Light the area from Cider Mill to the Stadium-playing fields and pathway
  - Install lights on the backside of tennis court lights to light the parking lot. Improve safety in the parking lot and crosswalk
- **Address flooding of Miller Driscoll Field?**
  - Install curb along roadway or berm between the field and roadway
- **Only allow use of half the field for practice at Lilly and the Stadium?**
  - Allows a field to be used by two teams-particularly helpful for girls youth field hockey, which is only played on turf
  - Similar to indoor fields
- **Staff install/clear temporary field hockey lines on Lilly for youth field hockey use?**
- **Examine and discuss WHS's 25% increase in requested turf usage?**

**RESOURCES**

• ***Youth sports participants per WARF:***

- 750+ Wilton Youth Football and Cheer participants
- 275+ Wilton Youth Field Hockey participants
- 600+ Wilton Youth Lacrosse Association participants
- 1,000+ Wilton Soccer Association participants

• **Youth Sports Statement of Needs Letter with links, April 2023:**

[https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf10026/f/agendas/wilton\\_youth\\_sports-documentation\\_of\\_need\\_apr\\_10\\_letter.pdf](https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf10026/f/agendas/wilton_youth_sports-documentation_of_need_apr_10_letter.pdf)

• **11-year History of Efforts to Build a Third Turf Field, April 2023:**

[https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf10026/f/uploads/11-year\\_history\\_of\\_turf-updated-4-11-23-website.pdf](https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf10026/f/uploads/11-year_history_of_turf-updated-4-11-23-website.pdf)

• **WARF Presentation to the BOS, March 2023:**

[https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf10026/f/agendas/warf\\_-\\_bos\\_update\\_presentation.pdf](https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf10026/f/agendas/warf_-_bos_update_presentation.pdf)