

Rochester, Jacqueline

Subject: FW: Document to be Posted on Website with May 11, 2022 P&R Commission Agenda
Attachments: FW: Wilton Softball Field Improvements

From: Tom Viggiano <tviggiano@gmail.com>
Date: April 4, 2022 at 7:27:25 AM EDT
To: "Vanderslice, Lynne" <Lynne.Vanderslice@wiltonct.org>, "Pierce, Steve" <Steve.Pierce@wiltonct.org>
Cc: Rommie Samai <samai78703@yahoo.com>, Tom Viggiano <tviggiano@deloitte.com>
Subject: Fwd: WHS Softball

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Good morning.

I woke up to find this message in my inbox. I wanted to take the time to share it because some of what is highlighted in the message is an extension of the conversation we have been having since last Fall. Other aspects fall squarely on those the letter is addressed to. That said, the only way the issues in our town with our fields and facilities begin to improve is via meaningful action from all parties who are owners and caretakers of our facilities. Please pass this along to other appropriate parties who have an interest and role in making choices that can improve this aspect our town (e.g., parks and recs commission, board of selectmen, board of finance). Thanks for taking the time to read this. Tom

Tom Viggiano
Cell 646 325 6298
Desk 203 761 3688

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rommie Samai <rommiesamai@gmail.com>
Date: April 3, 2022 at 10:35:37 PM EDT
To: kevin.smith@wiltonps.org, odonnellr@wiltonps.org, Chris McDougal <mcdougalc@wiltonps.org>
Cc: Tom Viggiano <tviggiano@gmail.com>, Brian Jacobs <jacobsb@wiltonps.org>
Subject: WHS Softball

Dear Dr. Smith, Principal O'Donnell, and AD Chris McDougal,

I am the head of the softball Boosters, which is part of the Wilton Softball organization. I'm writing to you this evening to highlight some urgent improvement needs that are stemming from the HS softball team's experience so far at the start of our softball season.

I want to begin by saying that I am proud of our girls and their play. This group of girls has always represented Wilton well, from their time in the youth program until now. They are a talented group of players who have been with the sport for years. They deserve a High School playing experience that resembles the level of effort and dedication they exhibit as a team. Sadly, they are not being afforded that experience thus far.

Specifically, I would like to highlight the deep disappointment the team had this past week when one scrimmage early in the week was cancelled because of a miscommunication over the availability of our field; and also at our first official game on Saturday, where our fields were not prepped to play by the school and/or town officials who are responsible for these duties. If not for parents organizing to step in and line the field (foul lines, pitcher's circle and batters boxes), using our youth organization's equipment and materials, the game would have been cancelled. This is not the experience these young women (or their parents) should have to endure.

As a parent, I want to highlight for you that I have two daughters who are now playing at the high school level, and I've volunteered as a little league coach, travel coach/coordinator, and Wilton Softball board member. There's a long history of softball being treated like a secondary sport in this town. As an example, the fact that our varsity field is viewed primarily as a men's recreation league field is insulting to all the girls who have played softball for Wilton High School over the years. Further, as I believe you are aware, the fields are in a poor overall condition and are in need of many improvements. Of note, I believe we are one of three high schools in the FCIAC that does not have an outfield fence. This is also a field that Wilton Softball contributed \$30,000 to renovate just a few years ago only to find it back in the same state it was prior to the renovations. I am writing to stop this trend while the season is still young. It is no longer acceptable that our town ignores the needs of the varsity softball program - these girls deserve better. They play the sport well and behave in the manner that our athletic program requests. Please reciprocate and treat them with the same level of respect. All sports and athletes should be treated equally.

I would like to formally thank Matt McMahon and George Krafick for helping with the field prep on Saturday. I'm happy to sit down and discuss any of these issues with you.

Attached is a letter previously sent by Tom Viggiano (cc'd here), President of Wilton Softball, addressing the field issues which are still a problem, including the Varsity & JV fields.

Regards,

Rommie Samai

Wilton Softball, Boosters