

1. **Call to Order**

Committee Members Present:

- Mary Storrs, Kathleen Ogden Fasser, Ravin Nanda, Brian Miller, Zander Kessler, Ryan Kane, Robert Grom, Laurie Hunter, John Flaherty, Mike Mastrullo, Brian Schlegel, Barry Haley, Susan Blevins, Mary McCabe

Committee Members Absent:

- Barry Haley, John Flaherty, Kay Upham

2. **January 24, 2018 Public Input Meeting**

- Mary Storrs called the meeting to order, noted it was being recorded, and welcomed the public and reminded those present that this was a public meeting and that they should direct their comments to Mary
- Mary Storrs prefaced the presentation by noting that the goal was to explain the committee's charge, introduce the committee's public engagement plan (authentic engagement), outline the existing conditions and users, and present the committee's evaluation process (a living document)
- Mary Storrs explained the charge (see language on the website) and introduced the committee; Mary emphasized that the committee is advisory in nature and that our goal is to collaborate
- Kathleen Ogden Fasser introduced the committee's Public Engagement Plan (PEP); she emphasized the goal of authentic engagement and collaboration; a copy of the PEP is posted on the website
 - Kathleen Ogden Fasser outlined the committee's outreach strategies: website, fact sheet distributed in Concord and Carlisle, CCHS Email blasts to family members, targeted forums, December 19 Site Walk, Public Input Meetings, RFI;
- Kathleen Ogden Fasser introduced the timeline and emphasized that all meetings are open to the public;
- Kathleen Ogden Fasser reviewed the site plan, existing conditions and users
 - Kathleen noted the 19.8 % impervious surface limit
 - Town guidelines = 15%
 - The property is already operating under a variance
 - 93 acres
 - A copy of the site plan is posted on the website; Kathleen hi-lighted the wetland buffer zones, two aquifers, slopes w/ areas that are not buildable (15% grade), buildings, the former landfill site, the former landfill site (w/ details re the AUL)
- Kathleen Ogden Fasser introduced the committee's evaluation process

- Kathleen emphasized that the committee is interested in all ideas, including the very small, i.e., a garden, to something much larger and perhaps more complex, for e.g., a parking lot
- Kathleen introduced the committee's draft evaluation rubric (living document)
- Kathleen introduced the RFI (request for ideas)
 - This document is based on the rubric
 - This is a tool only; an effort to standardize input
- Mary Storrs outlined a list of ideas that the committee has received: amphitheater, bonfire facility, garden, parking, pavilion, practice fields, running track, skating rink - covered or open, solar panels, walking paths
- Mary Storrs continued (ideas that had come in since slide was created): The committee has also received communication re a suggestion to change the traffic pattern at the high school so as to free up space on what is now on the road; a suggestion for more indoor recreation space; a suggestion for an outdoor classroom space
- Mary Storrs noted that all ideas have value and the committee was interested in hearing from those present, but that there would be no debate of ideas

3. Public Input

Christine Reiling, 92 Finigan Way, Concord

- Ms. Reiling coaches the Night Hawks (a track program for children kindergarten through 9th grade); she has been coaching for 7 years; they are unable to practice in Concord; Emerson track is overused; They must practice at Wayland, Westford, sometimes Fitchburg; Significant driving; Difficult to recruit Concord children; Ms. Reiling noted that any track can be covered with a bubble; Other sports can take place in locations with bubbles, i.e., not just track
- Mary Storrs asked a clarifying question re who/what are the Night hawks
- Ms. Reiling explained that other school districts are benefiting from the Night Hawk program, but not Concord/Carlisle

Janet Miller, 6047 Main Street, Concord

- Ms. Miller noted that the former landfill site is well suited for a track; for multi field use; the center of a track might be used for the throwing events; the throwing events are not allowed at Emerson
- Ms. Miller is also on the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee; she thinks the town would benefit from solar panels built over the parking area and/or the school roof; she noted that this cannot happen yet because there is no way to upload this much power to the grid and the town has not yet resolved that issue

Tyler Arle, 503 Lexington Road, Concord

- Mr. Arle was a member of the Rivers and Revolutions (R&R) program (Fall 2017); This cohort of students had been looking at the possibility of an outdoor classroom; Mr. Arle noted an area

near the former landfill, but closer to the turf field; This area has a natural circle of trees and would provide an interdisciplinary space for classroom / studying use

- R&R created a scale model of their proposal; the scale model is located in the back of the CCHS library
- Interdisciplinary space offering more access to the outdoors and allow for possible science experiments and/or Thoreauvian experiences, for e.g., English classes
- Mary Storrs asked “why this particular space”
- Mr. Arle said that the Rivers cohort was looking for something not right next to the school; its own space

David Ehrental, 82 Old Bridge Road, Concord

- Mr. Ehrental supports the idea of a track; he thinks it is unfortunate that a sport that attracts high numbers of students is dislocated from the school community; he has communicated with the Concord Academy coach who explained the traffic jams at the track; Mr. Ehrental thinks is a disservice to 100's of kids who are on the track team; he added that a track is something that can be used by the students and the community

Lorie Franck, 468 Sudbury Road, Concord

- Ms. Franck said she was at the meeting to offer her support for a track
- She asked for clarification around the RFI form, i.e., does everyone need to fill out the RFI, or just one for those who support a track
- Mary Storrs explained that only one was needed
- Ms. Franck asked if there was a procedure for letters of support
- Mary Storrs responded, yes, send letters to Mary Storrs (storrs.ccrsd@gmail.com)

David Allen, 316 Heath Bridge Road, Concord

- Mr. Allen commented on the national partisan divide; he thinks we are in a new era; he noted the previous issues around bussing and the lack of parking at the high school; Mr. Allen thinks that the committee should look at the bussing issue from an operations research perspective and noted that the district does not need one large parking area but rather more of an operations research perspective that considers how and when the busses are needed/used; busses might be parked at multiple locations rather than one location; busses might free up parking during the day; once the town gets beyond the partisan divide it might learn that there are solutions; he noted that the most important thing is to distribute the busses to different locations; he referenced the traveling salesman problem; instead of a partisan divide, ask what would be the best use of these resources; he thinks we could figure out what would reduce town costs and best serve the students; do not put the busses in any one place; spread them out; not much land is needed; this might tie together w/ the need for parking; yes there is a permeable surface issue; there are solutions that are permeable even though you can park stuff on them; just note you need to address this issue; Mr. Allen noted that Mark Hanson is not here tonight - a great deal of work has already been done on this; reservoir of research; if you deal with this - you might get a reasonable view;

Carter Winstanley, 847 Lowell Road, Concord

- Mr. Winstanley is a parent of three runners. He supports a track at the high school. He inquired about the cap and the 22" of soil. Kathleen Ogden Fasser responded that the clay cap (22" below the surface) was impermeable; She stated that there was a dig safe barrier (orange covering) over the cap; the cap cannot be broken
- Mr. Winstanley thinks it makes sense to have a track on the campus; he questioned whether there might be a place on campus that is preferable; in other words, consider all options - it might be easier to put the track somewhere other than the former landfill site

Julie Ann Cancio, 36 Bristol Hill Road, Concord, Direct Abutter

- Ms. Cancio noted that at one point the former landfill land was used as a lacrosse practice field; she said it both looked nice and was well used; Ms. Cancio thinks a track would be great, perhaps with a natural grass infield; because the current land slopes you would have to build up the lowest side; at previous meetings about the former landfill site it was noted that a track could fit in that area, i.e., a full size 8 lane track; she does not think the skate park was in the 8 lane version (maybe it was still present in the 6 lane version); with respect to parking, Ms. Cancio remembers a scenario where there might be both a track and 80 additional parking spaces (off the landfill); because of her proximity to the site, Ms. Cancio commented on what happens in that location during the summer season; she stated that the bikers, runners, swimmers, park in the lot and walk to Walden or go for rides, etc.; Ms. Cancio suggested charging for parking in that area; adding a gate that would keep others off the student parking area; she estimates several hundred vehicles use the lot every weekend in the summer

Dave Ehrental, 82 Old Bridge Road, Concord

- Mr. Ehrental asked about funding sources for potential projects
- Mary Storrs agreed that funding is an issue/factor
 - The RFI asks about funding sources
 - Mary Storrs noted that all of these questions must be weighed
- John Boynton agreed that there is no reservoir of money available at this time and no likelihood of money coming from the school district down the road; he anticipates the need for fundraising
- Bob Grom suggested a need to go to Town Meeting
- Mary Storrs mentioned the current school budget includes the possibility of teacher cuts and program cuts, etc.
- Mr. Ehrental commented, as a relatively new member of the community (3-4 years), that he was not sure he understood where the drive was coming from for cuts versus funding

David Allen, 316 Heath Bridge Road, Concord

- Mr. Allen agreed with Bob Grom's thought that the matter of funding should be referred to town meeting; Mr. Allen thinks that the citizens at town meeting would respond favorably to a first class idea that required funding; if needed he would organize support for funding

Carter Winstanley -

- Mr. Winstanley asked if anyone has identified the parking lot short-fall

Mike Mastrullo – CCHS Principal

- There are approximately 660 juniors/seniors; not every junior has a license; the school will never be able to accommodate every student; accommodating every student is unrealistic; Mr. Mastrullo emphasized that we cannot accommodate every senior; CCHS is at capacity with staff and students; no doubt CCHS needs more parking; 100 spots would be really, really well received

Michael Decker, 99 Ministerial Drive, Concord

- Asked whether schools get built with an understanding that every student gets a spot

Mike Mastrullo

- Debate continues re parking and whether it is a privilege versus right
- What he does know:
 - 58% of the student body play a sport, another 30% (?) doing extracurricular activities
 - Inconvenient for parents; bus schedule not ideal

Michael Decker, 99 Ministerial Drive, Concord

- What happens at other schools
 - Mike Mastrullo: Seniors are typically a priority; we are not unique

Susan Oman, 99 Ministerial Drive, Concord

- Suggested a long-term proposal of changing the culture, i.e., less cars
- Won't happen in a single year; why not discuss as a community

Laurie Hunter

- More people in favor of more spots (as opposed to changing the culture)

Mary Storrs

- Busses ½ hour later this year has been helpful; speaking as a Carlisle resident, students who must take a bus after an activity get home very late

Susan Oman, 99 Ministerial Drive

- 2 sons at CCHS, one graduated; both on the track team/cross-country
- The primary reason she came to the meeting was to support the concept of a track;
- There are two types of athletes who do spring track program: throwers and people using the track; these events are at two different places (near the upper parking lot and at Emerson); some athletes do both types of events; it is very difficult for the athlete to get to both events; it is very difficult for family members to watch both events

Steve Lane, CCHS Head Track Coach

- Supports a track at the high school
- It is very common for athletes to both throw and jump or throw and sprint; it is not impossible to get to both events, but it is very difficult; other teams do not want to come here because of this arrangement

Susan Oman

- Ms. Oman asked how decisions will get made
- For instance, is there any reason why R&R can't go to that space already
- She assumes CCHS has a flexible campus; Ms. Oman wonders what the committee's process might look like for small scale proposals;
- Mary Storrs - no intention of putting up roadblocks; some of the smaller/low impact proposals will be passed on to Mr. Mastrullo, dealt with on an as need basis
- Ms. Oman noted that if there is no buy-in for changing the culture, then perhaps we should push the boundaries of the space we have, and for e.g., charge fees for folks who park in the lot over the summer

Steve Lane, 547 Old Bedford Road

- Question about the timing for proposals (due February 26)
- Mr. Lane noted that it sounds like private funding will be necessary; Mr. Lane inquired whether proposals needed funding in advance
- Mary Storrs responded that the committee is looking at all proposals, not exclusively proposals that are self-funded
- Mary Storrs agreed that the funding must be a factor; but at this stage we don't have all of the answers; the committee is looking for viable ideas that meet the criteria laid out in the Rubric

Peter Nichols, 1645 Main Street

R&R, Earth & Environmental Science Department

- Mr. Nichols noted that students are talking about traffic issues and car-pooling
- With article 51 (?) and a push to reduce the town's carbon footprint, Mr. Nichol asked what do we want to do as a community, how will Concord lead?
- Mr. Nichols explained that R&R has talked about a model for a learning commons; he thinks that model can piggy back with a track and parking; he thinks a model where more needs are met, i.e., not just one sport, but also educational purposes and parking;
- Mr. Nichols is very interested in how the committee might weave together a package that serves multiple needs

Lauren McClure, Riverside Ave, Concord

- Ms. McClure asked how/whether the committee is working with Envision Concord
- John Boynton responded. Mr. Boynton is also on the Envision Concord committee; no overlap between the two committees, but many of the same themes presented in both venues

Wally Johnston - School Committee

- Mr. Johnston is also on the Envision Concord committee; In the near future, the school committee plans to meet with the Envision Concord committee

Tyler Arle

- Mr. Arle asked about the scenario where the grass field near the upper parking lot is moved to the former landfill site and room for alternative proposals is achieved
- He asked why that was proposed, other than the benefit gained from the limitations of the AUL
- A brief conversation ensued re clarification around passive recreation. Kathleen Ogden Fasser used an example: walking paths; John Boynton added: grass; John Boynton added that competitive fields typically need 24" or so of irrigation, i.e., below the field; Grass fields do not have the same degree of irrigation; Kathleen Ogden Fasser added that most sports need other "stuff," for e.g., scoreboards, etc., that would penetrate the cap; Susan Blevins added that you can move the scoreboards, etc., outside the boundaries of the former landfill area

Katie Kessler, Captain Miles Road, Concord

- Ms. Kessler favors a track
- Ms. Kessler agrees that parking is also an issue; one possible solution used at another school: students cannot obtain a pass w/out written documentation of a carpool; she encouraged the committee to squeeze in any parking that might be workable

Meeting Adjourned

- Mary Storrs thanked those present for attending and for their input. Ms. Storrs encouraged the public to look at the website and attend future meetings.
- At 8:30pm a motion was made by John Boynton to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Susan Blevins. All those present voted in favor.