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Fred Wolfe Park Ad Hoc Committee

High Plains Community Center
October 23, 2025 6:30. p.m.

(Unapproved Minutes)

Attendance

Members Present: John Carangelo, P.J. Shanley, James O'Connor, Tracy Persico, Jeanine Capecelatro, and Jack Pritchard

Guests: Dominick Celtruda and Josh Wheeler, BL Companies

Staff: Deborah Satonick, Assistant Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Mr. Carangelo called the meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves on behalf of the audience present.

2. Public Participation

Several members of the local community spoke regarding the final Fred Wolfe Park Plan.

Tom Pisano: Mr. Pisano felt that the Parks and Recreation Department would be unable to handle the scheduling and maintenance of the additional fields and believes that volunteers remain critical.

Erica Higgins: Ms. Higgins thanked the Committee for all of their hard work.

Dan Hawk, 521 Ridge Road: Mr. Hawk is concerned about the speeding on Hollow Road and feels that this has not been fully addressed.

Elizabeth DeLuca, 276 Hemlock Drive: She wanted everyone to be aware of the farmers who harvest on the land abutting Fred Wolfe Park.

David Smith, 297 Hemlock Road: Mr. Smith questioned the necessity of three access entrances into the property, pointing out that the Old Tavern Road Complex has only one entrance. Mr. Smith

inquired if the traffic study indicated that a third entrance was mandatory and Mr. Celtruda advised that it is recommended but not required.

Ed Donnelly, 288 Hemlock Road: Mr. Donnelly expressed concern regarding the privacy of his yard with the proposed trails.

Paul Davis, 335 Smith Farm Road: Mr. Davis explained that apartments were built on his street and felt that it is vital for the committee members to respect the voice of the local neighbors.

Lynn Plaskowitz: She stated that she took offense that the Parks and Recreation Department would be unable to handle the additional fields at Fred Wolfe Park. She advised that she works in that department and that they are perfectly capable of handling the additional workload.

Other concerns voiced were the location of the playground being in close proximity to the parking lot and the possible interference of the wetlands.

Mr. O'Connor thanked everyone for their input and reminded the neighbors that this parcel of land was originally intended for a high school, so the local neighbors knew when they purchased their property that this land could be developed for public use.

Mr. Carangelo advised that the plan, if approved this evening, will be presented to the Orange Board of Selectman and the residents will have a second opportunity to speak their concerns. From the selectmen's meeting, the plan will also need approval from Town Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Carangelo emphasized that the Town of Orange will continue to use volunteers at Fred Wolfe Park and that it would be in the best interest of the Town to take control of the scheduling and maintaining the fields.

Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Shanley reiterated that the town would be transparent during all of the five phases of development and local residents would be alerted to meetings via a number of different media.

3. BL Community Presentation of Final Fred Wolfe Park Master Plan & Possible Recommendation to the Orange Board of Selectman

Mr. Celtruda made a PowerPoint presentation of the Fred Wolfe Park Master Plan. He emphasized that the firm was hired exclusively to develop this property and strongly recommended control of the park by the Town of Orange. He outlined the five phases of development, the cost, and possible Federal, State, private, and corporate grants to fund the project. Safety, security, and public welfare were the top priorities of consideration. Mr. Celtruda outlined the project timeline, discussed the possibility of future speed bumps, prospective trails, the need to allow fields to get appropriate rest, among numerous other topics. He thanked everyone in the town that he spoke with and worked with to develop this final plan.

Mr. Shanley made a motion to approve the final Fred Wolfe Park plan as presented and recommended that it be presented to the Orange Board of Selectmen. Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion PASSED.

4. Discussion and Approval of June 26, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the June 26, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Shanley. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

5. Adjournment

Mr. O'Connor moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Mr. Shanley. All were in favor and the motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Satonick
Assistant Recording Secretary