

Amherst School Board  
Wednesday, October 16, 2013

**ATTENDANCE**

Amherst School Board

Peg Bennett, Lucienne Foulks, Amy Facey

Minute Taker

Elizabeth Shankel

**CALL TO ORDER**

7:47 p.m.

**PUBLIC TIME**

**Marty Nevrla**

**8 Cross Road**

The Recommendation of the Planning Board was to perform a lighting study. Why was a lighting study not performed? Without the study, it is only opinion as to road glare, light trespassing.

Is this just a dog and pony show?

Rec Dept said there would never be lights on this field. Our concern is that these lights will become permanent. The glare seems dangerous for people coming from the field as the parking lot is not lit.

There should at least be an impact study done to regarding increased traffic.

**Nancy Gagnon**

**1 Terrace Lane**

We feel that 2 nights will turn into 5 nights, and 8 will become 8:30. And we have heard that lacrosse will be using lights.

The weekends are filled with noise from whistles, shouting, and air horns.

The lights are giving glare and the sound is louder than dishwasher.

The temporary lights will lead to permanent lights.

The impact needs to be studied. Why is there no engineering study?

**Larry Grenier**  
**13 Warren Way**

This is a Sleepy Town not an Olympic Sports Town. Wildlife will be disrupted.

Simeon Wilson is already lit. Why not use this?

Nancy McMillan said that the ASC will be using for 5 nights a week.

Needs to be in writing that only ASC be able to use the lights and only for 1 year

I believe that a board member is also soccer club board member.

**Tom Culver**  
**341 Boston Post Road**

I coach 5 year olds, and I practice with EDP kids 5:30-6:30 in the evenings.

In spring practices go to 8pm because there is natural daylight – we want to be able to have the same thing in fall.

We brought lights out so abutters can review the setup.

**Andy**  
**Terrace Lane**

Noise and light does not bother you as you are 2 miles away and our property values go down, not yours.

Enough is enough. Can we have peace at night? What time will the lights go off?

Nancy McMillan said a proposed time of 8pm. Can we trust that?

**Donna Riley**  
**8 Cross Road**

Lighting is offensive and intrusive. Evening is a time to share and re-connect. Lights were in all rooms of our home last night.

What about ending of the children's' days? Family time? Sleeping 9 hours? How will children connect with nature? What about the lights shattering darkness?

What about the wildlife?

I strongly oppose the lights.

**Lisa Davidson**

Soccer Club has 600 members. We are good community member and are not here to be offensive. We have never violated zoning or other regulations.

To say we are not trustworthy is unfair.

Lacrosse is not being played in the fall and will not need lights.

Simeon Wilson is shared with other sports teams therefore only available 2 nights a week.

The practice finishes no later than 7:30. The lights would be out at 7:45. In October, lights would be turned on when needed. The fall season is over 1<sup>st</sup> week in November.

Practices on weekends are not an option as the games are scheduled then. Practices earlier are not an option as the school teams take priority on the fields.

Team sports give children valuable life lessons and help them to grow up to be good citizens.

The lights are temporary only.

**Chris Estabrook**

I am a teacher at AMS & have kids who play soccer. I am hoping that the lights will work for everyone.

My children are out of school at 2:05 and do their homework then and have soccer practice later.

The time of the practice will not be extended beyond what it is right now. Currently the lights from cars light the fields now.

Lights will be out before 8. There will be no air horns, just 2 nights of practice.

**John Hill**  
**5 Cross Road**

Never noticed lights from cars but I certainly notice these lights. I am worried that the lights will become permanent.

The back baseball field would be the ideal place. Why is that not used?

**Larry Grenier**

At Cemetery Fields there is no one to bother.

**Jon Colantuoni**  
**2 Terrace Lane**

I commend the soccer program and have children in soccer program. However I would not have bought my home if I had known fields would be built.

I have attempted to build in noise buffers but I don't even like being in my backyard. My favorite time is winter when fields are not used.

I have had enough of traffic and noise on weekends. This is another 3-5 weeks of noise.

**Mark Smith**  
**62 Boston Post**

I have been a Soccer Club Coach since 1994 and I have 2 boys who went through the system. Having the sports program is important for children.

I hear the concerns of the abutters - unfortunately we do not have fields that are isolated. However this is not additional time - this is time already scheduled.

The lights do make a noise but the noise is not as loud as the cars going by if you are by the road.

Many taxpayers pay for these fields so children can use them. People move to Amherst for these programs.

We do not want to impact people. We originally reserved solar lighting and it is our plan to have solar lights. We are not here to be adversaries; we are trying to work with neighbors.

Rec Dept brought the proposal to Planning Board. The Amherst Soccer Club proposal was amended by Rec Dept to a larger scope.

The Soccer Club is looking for practices for 5 weeks - 5:30-6:45 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and until 7:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Nancy McMillan**

The Bean Fields are owned by Amherst School District and are leased to Town. So the question was should we only ask for minimum or should we expand the scope in case of needs of other sports?

This change in scope was in light of other sport's needs.

**Leanna Marciano**

I have a son who plays soccer. I am German so I grew up outdoors. We always played outside until 7:30 at night and then went home for dinner.

Solar lighting and green buffer will make a large difference. We already have the parking and infrastructure.

The Chair thanked all the speakers for coming out and participating in the meeting.

**Lucienne move the meeting adjourned at 8:45. Amy seconded. Motion passed.**