

A Message from Dave Bindelglass...

Some of you may know that one of the items at the January 2, 2020 Board of Selectmen's meeting was a discussion concerning a letter of intent to explore an agreement with Sacred Heart University regarding the Morehouse Park fields. Sacred Heart University has proposed converting one of our existing sports fields to a turf field which would be the home field for SHU's Women's Field Hockey Team. Currently, that field is seldom used because of its poor drainage. SHU plays 8 home games a year and practices mornings during their season. Average attendance at those games is about 50 people. The team commutes by van or minibus as would visiting teams. They also proposed building 6 to 8 tennis courts for SHU's Tennis Team games and practices, the schedule being roughly the same as the field hockey team. When not in use, these facilities would be open to Easton residents. There is also a proposed walking trail which may also be used for cross country training. Tennis courts and a walking trail were in the original plan for the sight to eventually be built by the Town. Easton would also negotiate an agreement for our citizens to use other SHU facilities and have access to cultural and educational resources.

The current status of the letter of intent is that a rough draft is being looked at by the appointed attorney firm of Berchem Moses and should be returned to Sacred Heart for their attorneys to review by January 10, 2020. The letter of intent is non-binding and once both sides agree to it, **it will be made public**. There are many details to be worked out but this is a rough outline of the plan. The Police Department, Park and Rec and Planning and Zoning are all reviewing the draft letter. *Again, the letter of intent is non-binding*. Once the final letter of intent is completed the Board of Selectmen will seek input from Easton citizens before agreeing to any formal lease agreement with Sacred Heart University.

01/09/2020