

LStar floats idea of stadium at SouthField

Among the uses proposed for a revised SouthField development is a 10,000 seat stadium.

By [By Fred Hanson](#)
The Patriot Ledger

Posted Aug. 26, 2015 at 2:04 AM
Updated Aug 26, 2015 at 3:13 AM

WEYMOUTH – In addition to more residences and commercial space, SouthField could also become the home of professional sports teams.

Revised plans for the development presented to the town council Monday night included a 10,000 seat sports stadium and a hockey arena with three ice sheets.

The stadium shown on the plans is rectangular, a configuration for sports such as football, lacrosse and soccer.

Kyle Corkum, the managing partner and founder of LStar Management, said the company has heard from several groups interested in building a professional stadium in the development, the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station.

Corkum would not identify any of the groups.

At 10,000 seats, the stadium appears to be too small for Major League Soccer's New England Revolution, which has been seeking a new home for more than a decade. The team drew an average of 16,681 fans to its games last year, and most teams in the league play in stadiums with seating capacities of 17,500 to 27,000 fans.

Town Council President Patrick O'Connor said he's excited by the idea of including a stadium in the proposal.

"I think it's something that works," O'Connor said in an interview.

In addition to housing professional sports events, it could also be used for school sports and other events such as concerts, he said.

"I think it goes toward their whole strategy of making SouthField a destination," O'Connor said of LStar.

He said traffic would be a major factor in the council's consideration of any stadium plan. He added that LStar has been gaining experience with handling traffic with events such as its "Food Truck Rodeos," which draw crowds of a few thousand to the area.

He said the stadium could be a good source of tax revenue for the town as well as bring in potential customers for the restaurants and retailers planned for the area.

"There's a lot of economic activity that surrounds these things," O'Connor said.

LStar, which took over the redevelopment project back in May, is seeking to revise plans for the project in order to maximize revenue to Weymouth, Rockland and Abington, encourage economic development as well as minimize impacts to the community.

Among the changes proposed, which would require redrawing the zoning maps of the property, are building an additional 1,000 units of housing for buyers age 55 and older and increasing the commercial development on the property from 2 million square feet to 3 million or more. The company has not yet submitted proposals which would change the zoning.