

Community Preservation Committee

Joseph Greeley, Chairman
John Hall, Vice Chairman
Cheryl Doyle, Recording Secretary
Helen Abdallah Donohue
Debbie Holmwood
Peter McFarland
Anne White Scoble
John Aprea



**Director of Community
Planning and Economic
Development**

Paul Halkiotis, AICP

Assistant Planner

Patrick Deschenes

Community Preservation Committee Meeting

1/23/2019

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Room 24

Norwood Town Hall

PRESENT:

Helen Abdallah Donohue
Cheryl Doyle
Joe Greeley
John Hall
Debbie Holmwood
Peter McFarland

Also Present:

Patrick Deschenes, Assistant Town Planner
Paul Halkiotis, Town Planner

ABSENT:

John Aprea

Approval of Minutes 1/9/19

MOTION to table minutes until next meeting by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Ms. Doyle.

All in favor.

CPA Applications Review

Lower Balch Rehabilitation

Representing the project was Travis Farley, Superintendent of Recreation and Balch Elementary School Principal Diane Ferreira.

Mr. Farley provided background on the location's history and a summary of what they hoped to accomplish with this project.

Mr. Farley stated how the area was essentially unusable after the skate park was shut down. The area was in need of a total rehabilitation in terms of repaving the basketball court, establishing a small soccer field where the skate park was, new fencing and benches, and an outdoor classroom location.

Ms. Ferreira explained the current state of the school's recess area and how the space was very limited in resources and for the number of children that use it daily.

Ms. Ferreira also discussed the outdoor classroom as a new location for learning that they currently did not have the space for, but would like to incorporate into the rehabilitation project. She also stated that this was a facility that other elementary schools in the area had.

Mr. Farley stated that the outdoor bathroom would not be included in this rehabilitation project.

Ms. Donohue discussed the desire for the project to include an ADA compliant ramp connecting the upper Balch with the lower Balch.

Mr. Farley stated that he had reached out to Mark Ryan about this and received a quote for around \$60,500 for this type of ramp. Mr. Farley would like to include this into his project application.

Mr. McFarland stated that this would be a good inclusionary measure.

Mr. Doyle asked if the DPW would do this construction or will Mr. Farley need to add contingencies for a bidder.

Mr. Farley stated he will need to follow up with Mr. Ryan.

Mr. Hall asked the applicants how many users would use the rehabilitated section.

Ms. Ferreira explained the rotating use schedule for the students and how many would be using the rehabilitated location.

Ms. Donohue stated that she saw the park as a very busy location and would be used even more with these rehabilitation measures.

Mr. Greeley stated that the area was limited right now due to the fence around the old skate park.

Ms. Doyle asked if more than one location would have a fence.

Mr. Farley stated that new fences would only be where there are current fences now and that proper signage could also be put in place.

Mr. Farley explained the issues with the expiring quotes and how they only last for three months. There was a need to extend them to past Town Meeting and in a worse case situation to either raise the contingencies or find additional funding sources.

Mr. Farley stated that he would work on producing renderings that better show the proposed layout.

Mr. Greeley stated that they should work on getting letters of support from all associated entities.

Bond Street Playground

Representing the project was Travis Farley, Superintendent of Recreation

Mr. Farley explained the background with the location and the background with the current woodchip surface for all playgrounds. Although woodchips are technically ADA compliant they present an issue with maintenance and high traffic areas that see a lot of use.

Mr. Farley stated that a poured rubber surface is a more modern and effective surface that a lot of Towns are starting to apply to playgrounds, and that this surface would only cover a portion of the Bond Street Playground.

Ms. Donohue asked if Mr. Farley would consider looking into adding a fence along Bond Street to help separate the playground from the street.

Ms. Holmwood asked what the lifetime of the rubber surface would be.

Mr. Farley stated that it is usually 20 years depending on extreme weather, vandalism, general use.

Mr. Greeley stated that ADA access to the playground should be addressed especially from the sidewalk.

Mr. Hall asked about the need in regards to use and whether the playground met the estimated age group.

Mr. McFarland suggested adding a gate where the rubberized surface would be. Mr. McFarland also asked if the surface would be like that of a track

Mr. Farley stated that it was a softer surface that had a “bounce” to it.

Ms. Holmwood asked what the color would be.

Mr. Farley stated that he would work on a rendering for the Committee. Mr. Farley also stated that this project had the same quote dilemma as the Balch Project and would need to be updated.

Mr. Greeley asked about the installation period. Mr. Farley stated it would take 4-6 weeks to complete.

Mr. Greeley stated that partnering with other sources of funding like the hospital might be worth looking into.

Carillon

Representing the project was Bernie Cooper, Assistant General Manager and Lee Leach, carillon player

Mr. Cooper and Mr. Leach provided a brief history and background on the Town's carillon and their roles in keeping the carillon functioning.

Mr. Cooper went into extensive detail on the rehabilitation work done in the 1980s and the work needing to be done now.

Mr. Hall praised the project for providing information on how many people the carillon impacts. Mr. Hall also asked how many other towns had carillons in Massachusetts. Mr. Leach provided the answer. Mr. Cooper also stated that there only 2 municipalities in the United States that had publicly owned carillons.

Mr. Doyle asked about the contingencies included by the applicants.

Mr. Cooper also explained exclusivity of skilled craftsmen available that perform the type of work needed on carillons. This leads to needing to have high contingencies because of how rare and unusual the work is.

Ms. Doyle asked if there was a way to protect the bells from the elements.

Mr. Cooper explained that they could not as it would prohibit the sound being heard properly.

Ms. Holmwood asked about the work done in the 1980s

Mr. Greeley stated that having tours done both for the CPC and Norwood Community Media would be good to spread the message about the carillon's importance to the Town.

Lower Pond Pavilion

Representing the project was Ramanda Morgan, Conservation Commission Secretary

Ms. Morgan stated that the Conservation Commission was requesting funding for a 20'x30' pavilion at the property for a much needed shade component. The location was a well-used park by the neighborhood currently but adding a shade structure would help it to become a more attended location.

Mr. Hall asked if there was informational signage on the property for the butterfly garden.

Ms. Morgan stated that it did not have the signage, but that it followed the guidelines of a monarch butterfly way station.

Ms. Doyle, who is also a member of the Conservation Commission, stated that the location could be tied into the recreation department's summer program and benefits the neighborhood which includes a nearby condo complex.

Ms. Morgan stated that there had been suggestions for lighting and it was not included in the original application, but the structure could be set up in a way to easily incorporate that at a later time.

Mr. Greeley stated that it would be a good idea to include the full picture of what the future of the pavilion might be at Town Meeting rather than have it as a potential component added later on.

Ms. Doyle stated that the Conservation Commission has their own source of funding to add the lighting at a later time.

Mr. Hall stated that while it might be the case to add the lighting later, it would still be a good idea to include the whole picture when presenting the project to Town Meeting so Town Meeting members could get a feel for it.

Ms. Morgan explained how the Conservation Commission was looking at solar powered lighting in order to avoid trenching.

Mr. McFarland asked if there had been any community outreach for the project yet. Mr. McFarland also had concerns for the parking on Endicott Street.

Mr. Halkiotis stated that the park needs to include parking spaces for visitors and to avoid creating a parking problem on Endicott St. The Zoning Bylaw may also require parking for places as assembly.

Ms. Morgan explained the proposed positioning the pavilion in relation to elements of the site.

Ms. Holmwood stated that she felt lights would be a good idea and that adding possible landscaping elements would be good too.

Mr. Greeley stated that if additional features are going to be included for the project, even if from a separate funding source, then they should still be identified on the application.

Mr. Hall agreed stating that it would be good for the community to see the full picture of the project.

Additional discussion of the possibility of expanding parking occurred.

Other Business

Mr. Greeley gave a brief overview of the 2/6/19 CPC agenda and of the remaining projects to review on 2/13/19.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Ms. Doyle.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:
Patrick Deschenes, Assistant Town Planner