



## **Boylston Parks and Recreation Commission**

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM – PM

Members Present: Chair Eric Hoffses, Committee members Alison LeBlanc, Steven Nason, Claudine Underwood, Arielle Strzelewicz. Colin Novak Greater Worcester Land Trust, Paul Dell'Aquila. Residents Mark Anttila, Elaine Jones, Jerry Quam, Teresa Perenier, and Susan Silkowski

Absent: Crystal Daher

The meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

### **Camp Harrington Grant Discussion**

Eric gives the group an update that we are only eligible for a PARC Grant. Colin explains the difference between the land and PARC grants. Paul adds that the PARC grant is considered a two year process, design work in the first year and construction in the second year. He also explains that it is a reimbursable grant and how that process works. He states we do not need a full set of engineered plans to move forward but a general park concept to move forward with the grant. Colin suggests getting estimates from design firms for the project to get a ball-park estimate of what the cost may be or just moving forward with the PARC grant for the acquisition of the land. Colin clarifies that there is potential to get up to \$400,000 from the PARC Grant because there are several pools of money in the grant. Paul states that generally 80-100% of grants have been accepted in past years. Colin discusses several grant scenario possibilities after the land is required. Paul explains that the Town of Boylston recently applied for MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Program) designation, which if the town gets awarded, this designation can help strengthen the chances at receiving grants.

Ali states that Parks & Rec. had previously received an engineering grant and wondered if we would qualify again to reapply. Paul will look into it. Arielle asks if previously applying stops us from reapplying. Colin explains it does not and that you can not use the funds one grant to match the funds from another grant. Paul suggests moving forward with acquiring the land first. Calin states that starting a project and receiving a grant increases the likelihood of receiving future grants to complete the project. Claudine states that the purchase and sales agreement mentions earth removal and states we need to know if the land will be reconstructed. Steve states the slope needs to be returned back to its original state. Colin explains that there are multiple agreements as part of the sale. The prior owners will make sure that the conservation issues are resolved. Claudine states it needs to be completed before we bring the project to town vote. Colin states there is an order of conditions, GWLT applied for an extension for the work to be completed. All three parties need to sign off on the order of conditions to make the

project work. He believes there will be road bumps but everyone wants to move forward. Arielle asks if the grooming of the land needs to be complete before moving forward with the grant process. Colin explains it needs to be complete before June 2022 to be free of any encumbrances. Paul explains that for applying for this grant cycle we would need an affirmative vote from a town meeting or special town meeting and explains the process. Paul will go through and see what steps can be started now that there is focus on the direction of the grant. The committee opened up questions to residents in attendance. Elaine J. asks if there will be enough time to complete the required steps before the grant deadline.

Gerry Q. asks. Teresa asks if the PARC grant is applied for does that mean the Camp Harrington park will be open to the public? Paul states that it would be a public park. Ali confirms that all the parks in town are public. Teresa also asks if there is a plan as to what the park will be? Arielle explains the top three use results from the Open Space survey, those results will be incorporated into the plan for the park. Teresa asks if the order of conditions to restore the grading of the land will be completed before the land purchase. Colin states that it will be met and Greater Worcester Land Trust has filed an extension and met with the Conservation Committee and will be meeting with the Conservation Committee and the former land owner. The committee and Colin discuss a pull off parking area and walking trails and preserving the wetland area. The existing building will be taken down. Susan S. asks if a sports field is still a possibility. Eric explains that building a sports field will be substantially harder than originally thought due to grant limits. Susan S. asks about the possibility of a fundraiser. Claudine states a "friends of" group would need to be formed to fundraise. The process of naming the park is discussed.

Claudine makes a motion to move forward with the PARC grant and for it to be sent to the select board for approval to apply for the grant. Ali seconds, all in favor. Eric: yes, Ali: Yes, Steve: Yes, Claudine: Yes. Arielle: Yes.

Ali makes a motion to close the meeting at 8:15pm, Arielle seconds, all in favor. Eric: yes, Ali: Yes, Steve: Yes, Claudine: Yes. Arielle: Yes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Crystal Daher  
Boylston Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator