

West Boylston Community Preservation Committee

May 11, 2021

Present: Patrick Crowley, Christopher Rucho, Sarah Miles, Vin Vignaly, Steve Blake, Patricia Halpin, Brenda Bowman, and Beverly Goodale.

Absent: None

Others Present: Jim Pedone, Ed Bragg, Michael Edwards, Rachael Brown, Chloe Bragg and Becky Conway

Patrick Crowley read the Governor's statement on remote meetings.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve minutes of previous meeting.

Discussion and possible vote on Pride Park ADA Upgrades:

Jim Pedone gave the Committee the history and an overview of the project that the Parks Commission decided to move forward with. He explained a subcommittee worked with the engineers and the Building Commissioner to get a concept drafted. He stated they would like to use the concept design to go to town meeting to request funding. He gave the Committee an overview of the proposed plan which he presented on screen. Mr. Pedone stated they will not be removing old equipment but will make changes to some equipment. Mr. Pedone stated the surveying will be completed and a final design will be done. Brenda Bowman asked about the color of the surface, Mr. Pedone stated that has not been decided. Vinny Vignaly asked if the ADA and CMR requirements will be met, Mr. Pedone stated Michael Edwards of the Collins center will review to be sure the compliance is met. He explained Mr. Edwards believes this project can be completed in phases and remain in compliance in a budget up to \$250,000. Mr. Pedone stated the DPW will complete some of the work to keep costs down. Mr. Rucho asked if this request for funding will bring the park into compliance, Michael Edwards responded that they do not know what the survey results will be but to bring the playground up to CMR requirements may require more work. Mr. Edwards explained there are some things that may need to be addressed under ADA requirements such as parking area and accessible route around the area and will have to be done with these funds under Phase I. He stated there may be additional phases depending on what the survey depicts. He stated as long as the town has a plan to build out, they are meeting the obligation. Mr. Rucho stated besides the site work and parking lot issues the \$137,000 price will not change the only extra funds will be for parking issues. Mr. Pedone stated the CMR requirements will need to be met and some items have not been identified. Mr. Pedone added that if they do not get this project done someone will file a complaint against the town and they are trying to avoid that and get this done as soon as possible. Mr. Rucho asked what the phases if any will cost, Mr. Pedone does not have the answer. He stated they are asking for the \$250,000 funding and is hopeful they can get as much done as possible. Mr. Pedone stated the school is picking up the cost for the engineering design and surveying. They have applied for a \$25,000 grant and has been in touch with state representatives who are trying to get the town \$175,000 for this project. He explained if they received any additional funding, they will be requesting less than the \$250,000 from the CPC. Mr. Rucho asked for clarification that if this plan brings the playground up to CMR and ADA what are the other phases, Mr. Pedone responded there may be other things not covered in this phase that will need to be

addressed and may also have future expansion. Brenda Bowman has concern about upgrading playground if there is talk about moving the elementary school to a new school, Mr. Pedone stated that is possibly 5-10 years out and is in the process to work with the state. Mr. Rucho stated if a new school is built this will still be a town playground and the school will need to build one at the location of the new school. Discussion on the materials and labor cost being charged to the grant not the DPW budget. Discussion on if the costs come in more than the \$250,000 what will be the plan going forward will the park just be closed.

Upon motion of Steve Blake and second by Sarah Miles, the CPS voted to fund the project of up to \$250,000.

Vote:

Steve Blake, yes

Brenda Bowman, yes

Beverly Goodale, yes

Patrick Crowley, yes

Patricia Halpin, yes

Christopher Rucho, yes

Vinny Vignaly, yes

Sarah Miles, yes

Mr. Rucho requested once final numbers are received that the Parks Commission come back to the CPC.

Mr. Crowley asked if they place a sunset clause on these funds, Mr. Blake would like to place a year on it with an extension. Mr. Crowley would like two place a two years clause, Ms. Miles would like to allow for extension. Ms. Halpin asked if they could have that answer before town meeting, Mr. Crowley will consult with Stuart. Mr. Pedone stated once the project is completed the balance should be returned right away and be closed out. Ms. Conway asked if they plan to use the remaining funds to work on the inclusion part of the playground not just ADA compliance. The Commission stated no they are working on the ADA compliance.

Chloe Bragg read a prepared statement about equality vs inclusivity.

Upon motion duly made and seconded meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Vote:

Steve Blake, yes

Brenda Bowman, yes

Beverly Goodale, yes

Patrick Crowley, yes

Patricia Halpin, yes

Christopher Rucho, yes

Vinny Vignaly, yes

Sarah Miles, yes