

**Town of Auburn
Board of Selectmen
Site Walk
Eddows Recreational Fields
June 28, 2017**

Selectmen Present: James Headd, Richard Eaton and Dale Phillips

Also Present: David Nye, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair; Rene LaBranche, Stantec Consulting; Parks & Recreation Coordinator Amy Lachance and Bill Herman, Town Administrator.

The parties met at the main entrance to Eddows Recreational Field at 10:00 AM. The Board of Selectmen had requested to walk the property to better understand the potential expansion plans the Parks & Recreation Commission has discussed, as well as various improvements anticipated for the existing fields.

The group agreed to first inspect the new parking lot area added in the past two years on the east side of the ball fields. In looking over the new parking area, it was generally felt it was a good start for a parking area. Dale Phillips questioned the need and cost for the proposed pathway between the parking lot and the ballfields. David Nye pointed out specifically where the pathway would connect with the parking lot (at the back end of the lot). He indicated the pathway is approximately 300-feet in length and there was a large area to install a culvert and fill, in addition to paving the pathway and to paving an area for handicapped parking spaces. He pointed out stockpiles of materials on site that could be used as material for this project. Bill Herman suggested this area does need to be paved for handicapped accessibility if there is sufficient provision of handicapped parking in the main parking lot of the fields. Mr. Nye indicated there were four or five handicapped spots already at the main parking lot. Rene LaBranche estimated the paving costs are approximately \$6,000, and are a small part of the project's cost. He indicated there is a significant depth and area to install the culvert and fill to establish the pathway, and that was the bulk of what was driving the project costs.

Richard Eaton joined the meeting at 10:35 AM.

There was a general sentiment the Town has invested in the in the new parking lot to date (approximately \$60,000), and it should be completed. The cost estimate for the building of the pathway is an additional \$60,000. Mr. Nye indicates that once the pathway is completed, the work necessary to complete the parking lot is to: 1) install finish gravel; 2) purchase and install 10 parking lot lights, and 3) widen the entrance to a width to accommodate two lanes versus the current single lane entrance.

Dale Phillips mentioned she would like to see the plan for expansion of the recreational fields looking at all of the property the Town owns. Bill Herman noted he provided Dan Tatem with a copy of the Town's tax map showing the Town's ownership of the Eddows Recreational Fields' property (Tax Map # 1, Lot #36 – 28) with approximately 17.8 acres. But noted there are two larger abutting properties also owned by the Town including Tax Map #1, Lot #36 (26.509-acres) and Tax Map #1, Lot #36 – 1 (23.8-acres). He indicated both were given to the Town by Herron Corporation and were restricted to conservation or recreation use.

Rene LaBranche indicated Stantec could very easily review the additional lots and match them with the prime wetlands review done for Auburn, as well as topographic maps to determine if the properties have development potential. The Selectmen agreed this would be worthwhile for the Town to do as part of its due diligence to ensure the total potential is considered.

The group walked the existing fields on the Eddows Field property, and David Nye showed the group where the proposed pathway from the new parking lot would connect with the fields behind at outfield fence of one of the ballfields.

The site walk concluded at 11:40 AM.