

Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 3:44 PM

Subject: Gerow Park Phase 2

To: Recreation Commission, CPC Members, Select Board, Kerry LaFleur

Ms. Clifford: Could you please forward this email to the CPC Members and the Recreation Commission Members. There isn't a general mailbox that I could find. Thanks, and could you confirm this was forwarded:

Folks,

I have some concerns right out of the box on the application to the CPC for Phase 2 of Gerow Park. My comments are reluctantly assuming we taxpayers are now going to put even more money into Gerow. Shame on me for not seeing this Gerow Park application sooner, before it was voted on.

I don't think it is appropriate that the "Recreation Commission and Staff" are the one's that will be doing the hiring and evaluation of a "Consultant" which in this case would be a hiring under the MA Procurement Laws of an Engineer or Architect. This is not a 30B situation for the lowest bidder but rather an evaluative process after an RFQ is issued. The application states an RFP will be issued and this concerns me already. The application also infers the Recreation Commission and Staff will essentially be the OPM (Owners Project Manager) working with the CPW and Natural Resources. *Please don't forget Phase 1 of Gerow Park! It was an unmitigated disaster.* The Finance Department should be directing the procurement of any consultant. This isn't to say members of the Recreation Commission or Recreation Staff can't be utilized but the Town's Finance Department should control and supervise the process. A HUGE problem with Phase 1 of Gerow was that the very professionals that manage, direct and oversee Town Public Works projects had virtually no involvement in the Gerow project until the project failed at all levels. Doing this again fits the definition of insanity. The Director of Concord Public Works and the Town Engineer must be the oversight of this project!! It is a Town Project using Taxpayer money and should be assigned to accountable Town professionals. Not being crystal clear from the beginning will be another big mistake.

Is all of this prudent considering we don't even know the ultimate fate of Warner's Pond yet? Another Ninety Thousand Dollars for "Consultants" again?

Paul Macone

33 Grove Street

Date: May 6, 2025 at 8:48:32 PM EDT

Subject: CCHS Amenities Building Support

Dear Phil:

I am writing to seek the formal support of the Concord Recreation Commission for a critical initiative that upholds accessibility, inclusion, and good governance in our town. As you know, Concord-Carlisle Regional High School was built a decade ago, yet the school district remains out of compliance with both the plumbing code and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) due to the continued use of port-a-potties at Memorial Stadium on our lower campus. For nearly ten years, students, staff, and visitors with disabilities have lacked access to permanent, ADA-compliant restroom facilities—an issue that must be addressed without further delay.

The School Committee has diligently pursued multiple avenues for funding to resolve this issue:

- We requested ARPA funds from the Town Manager after learning that uncommitted funds were available, but unfortunately, this request was declined.
- We applied for a CPC grant via Special Application but unfortunately, this request was also declined.
- We are working collaboratively with state representatives and remain hopeful that some funding may be earmarked for this project.

Despite these efforts, the responsibility to correct this decade-old noncompliance remains. This is not only a legal obligation but also a moral and ethical duty—one that reflects Concord's commitment to inclusion, belonging, and equity. Moreover, failing to act leaves the Town of Concord exposed to liability risks that must be mitigated.

Since the Concord Recreation Commission has long supported principles of accessibility and responsible governance, we respectfully ask for your formal endorsement of our warrant article at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. Your support will send a powerful message that Concord values fairness, inclusion, and compliance with the law.

We are available to discuss this matter further and answer any questions you may have. Please let us know how we can collaborate to ensure this long-overdue issue is resolved.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope to count on your support.

Sincerely,

Brian Waterson Chair, CCRSD Campus Completion Subcommittee

John Cooley, Ph.D.
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Concord, MA 01742
(857) 321-1220
cooleymobile@gmail.com

May 14, 2025
Concord Town Select Board
22 Monument Square
Concord, MA 01742

Re: 146B-1442 Main Street and 110-11B Highland Street - Support for the Town of Concord to purchase land for park construction

Dear Select Board,

We are writing to support the purchase of Lot A1 of the Center & Main St. proposed development to create a pocket park or greenspace that will benefit the surrounding community.

This is in accordance with the Town of Concord, MA Subdivision Rules and Regulations Section 6.20 and is further to a letter dated November 6, 2020 expressing community support to reserve that land for public purpose.

At present, there is no public wooded or open space between the Main St. thoroughfare (Main St. is not easily crossable with small children), and the railroad (the railroad is not safely crossable except at Conant St. or at Commonwealth Ave. in town). Rideout Playground is practically and literally "on the other side of the tracks." With the current density of homes proposed in that area by the developer, and with the significant removal of wooded space proposed by the developer, we believe the town should pursue the opportunity to create public greenspace for town residents, particularly for those who will live in and around the development.

By way of example, Lot A1 could be purchased and constructed to provide a partially wooded greenspace - a "pocket park" - accessible by the residents of the new proposed development and by the existing residents of Main St, Highland St. and others nearby. The greenspace could act as a joining space for new and existing residents while preserving some aspects of nature that will be displaced by the development. It could also act as a practical means for residents of the new development to access the town center and the train station on foot.

This pocket park is aligned well with the West Concord Village Master Plan which calls for the creation of new open spaces and public amenities in the village for active and passive recreational uses.

These suggestions also align well with the Town's aspirations to encourage connectivity near the commuter rail lines and commercial centers, preserve and increase tree canopy, and support environmental sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,

John and Clarissa Cooley, 80 Highland St.

Katie Reppert and Jason Miles, 74 Highland St.

Nika Engberg and Nicholas Brown, 62 Church St.

Anna Willis and Steve Collier, 99 Highland St.

Christina Scherer and Brian Burt, 97 Highland St.

Christa and Jeff Collins, 55 Highland St.

Carlene Hempel and Geoff Edgers, 50 Highland St.

Paul and Leanne Winkler, 1414 Main St.

Shannon Sweeney and Tyson Seely, 1443 Main St.

Dan and Yulia Shea, 1415 Main St.

James and Christina Anderson, 15 Chase Rd.

Alison and Christopher Arthur, 73 Highland St.

Sarah Bossert and Mark Wachsler, 40 Highland St.

Adrian and Lea Tompsett, 41 Highland St.

Scott and Kristin Forsberg, 17 Highland St.

Kathy Gasperine & Brad Egan, 1461 Main Street

Chris and Dave Hayes, 26 Highland St.

Margaret and Marty Schumacher, 25 Highland St.

Peter Karle, 1453 Main St

Jon and Sara Belmont, 10 Highland St.

Jane Hosie-Bounar, Khaled Bounar, 68 Highland Street

Lyndal Blodgett, 33 Highland St