APPENDIX 12B

Natural & Landscape Subcommittee: Final Recommendations

This is the final recommendation by the Natural and Landscape Subcommittee of the Kendrick Park Committee based on our research, subcommittee meetings, general committee meetings and suggestions/requests from community members at various public events over the months (business, neighborhood, high school, and the community at large). We have listened and thought carefully about the future of the Park and recognize that we would need many Kendrick Parks to include all the hundreds of wonderful ideas that have been expressed by the community. Conceptually, we see a multi-use park that invites people in for both passive and active enjoyment of a beautiful, green and well designed park that enhances our Town and the lives of the people that visit.

OVERALL DESIGN

- We recommend an Active Southern end that includes a multi-use, terraced public gathering area, a more protected play area and open fields for pick-up recreation and winter ice skating; The Tranquil Northern end will be for passive enjoyment with little change to its current look and landscape.
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- Utilize the existing lot lines and grade differentials in the overall design of the park, in order to create multiple uses of these areas.
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- Entranceways will be distinctive and inviting and will utilize some type of archway appropriate to the parks' overall design.
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- Surfaces: All surfaces are to be permeable; such as stone or pavers with no concrete or asphalt, in order to allow precipitation to reach soil and tree roots.
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- Leave tree canopy as is except for diseased or moribund trees, and invasive species. We recommend creating an arboretum in the park.

- Pathway/Access: We recommend the creation of a path through the interior of
- the park that is a loop or figure eight design appropriate to the final design of the park so that people of all ages and abilities can access the park. In addition we recommend that the East Pleasant street sidewalk is expanded to intersect with the interior pathway of Kendrick Park so that people do not have to cross the street twice to have sidewalk access to, and around, Kendrick Park.

STRUCTURES AND LAND FORMS

- We do NOT RECOMMEND the construction of any large structures on Kendrick Park, such as a public lavatory or traditional playground structures.

- We RECOMMEND that "earthen forms" and/or sculptural elements be substituted for traditional playground structures (along the lines of the Cushman salamander, and the North Village play mounds), capitalizing on existing natural topography and/or manmade features (such as house foundations), providing a natural-feeling landscape for children of all ages to explore, jump off, run up, roll down, crawl around on, etc.

- We RECOMMEND that the subject of a permanent covered Farmers Market be explored further for elsewhere in town. In particular, we see a much more optimal use of the Pray Street parking lot, which might be used for a permanent, covered, year-round farmer's market, as is done in Boston and many European cities creating a well-organized, multiple use of the same piece of land.

* We RECOMMEND that the subject of public bathrooms be explored further for elsewhere in town.

- We RECOMMEND the addition and judicial placement of benches/sitting areas throughout the park.

- We RECOMMEND terraced stone steps created at the natural rise near the Ward house lot to accommodate concerts, performances, sitting and children's play and to encourage multi-use of the park.

TRAFFIC AND LAND USE SURROUNDING PARK

- We RECOMMEND designating North Pleasant Street Extension as one-way and creating additional parking spaces for the community. A one way street calms traffic, creates a safer buffer around the Park as well as opening up the possible use of this street as an alternative week day farmers market location.
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- We do Not RECOMMEND any sacrifice of park land for road widening at North Pleasant/East Pleasant/Triangle Street intersection.

PUBLIC GATHERING SPACES

- We RECOMMEND creating a play area within the southern section of Kendrick
- Park that is multi-use but provides a safe and more intimate area for families
- with young children to congregate. Low stone walls that offer seating and/or
- raised land forms would create a family/young child friendly area for play. As
- was mentioned above, earthen land forms, berms , low walls or sculptures
- would provide unique and multi- use play areas for children.

* We RECOMMEND that the "Active" area be limited to the southern tip of park, extending no farther than where the natural rise is, just south of the Ward house lot (last house removed). This will help delineate the "active" from the "passive" sections of the park; leaving the northern end a more tranquil and passive oasis.

- We RECOMMEND that this southern section be designated for multi-use and for the heaviest foot traffic, i.e., small art shows, performers, tabling events, music and theatrical performance and areas for other events. Specific policies will be developed by the Kendrick Park Committee regarding fees for use of this space, with perhaps a discounted fee for not-for-profit entities (501(c) organizations) using the space for charitable purposes.

- We RECOMMEND using natural stone and grass for a terraced, piazza style for the public gathering area at the most southern section of the park, which will allow for plenty of precipitation to reach down to tree roots as well as protect the ground from the more active foot traffic and public use of this area.

GARDENS

- We RECOMMEND that formal gardens be limited to the entrances of the park, for the reason that these are costly to maintain, particularly in terms of reliable volunteer labor; without regular maintenance, park gardens tend to look neglected very soon.

- In light of the above, it is recommended that the color that such gardens provide be supplied in the form of flowering trees and shrubs with colorful foliage and bark. Low-maintenance plantings, including shrubs that need minimal pruning

and care are recommended for Kendrick Park. Shrubs are an effective and low cost means to create traffic noise "calming" and serenity.

- We RECOMMEND a minimum of 5 years' commitment to caring for any garden that a volunteer group may wish to plant – and that this be written into park policy.

FOOTPATHS/ACCESS

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- We RECOMMEND that a path/walkway of permeable material be designed for the park so that all ages and abilities can walk/stroll through the park with ease. This could be a figure eight design or a loop that is aesthetically appropriate to the topography and ultimate design of the park.

- We RECOMMEND Solar footpath lighting along pathways, and "dark skies" lampposts placed judiciously throughout the park.
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- We RECOMMEND working cooperatively with WMECO to put utility cables
- Underground.
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- We RECOMMEND providing an electrical supply to the interior of the park for performances and public events.

WATER FEATURE

- The Subcommittee concurs with the UMass Landscape Design team that the Tan Brook – so much a part of the conversation from the start – be noted as an important element, and potential asset, of Kendrick Park. We do not recommend "daylighting" this polluted waterway. However, its cleanup should be addressed as an eventual and important public works project for the town to take on at some point in the future.

Respectfully submitted by The Natural & Landscape Subcommittee of The Kendrick Park Committee, December 2008.