



AMHERST *Massachusetts*

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To: CPA Committee

From: Guilford Mooring, Superintendent

Subj: Questions Regarding DPW requests to the CPA Committee

The following questions have been asked concerning the CPA fund requests made by the DPW.

Our first and most important request is for funds to upgrade the existing Groff Park Wading Pool Chlorinator. The pool has a manual chlorinator there requires frequent checks and adjustments. The Board of Health has determined that these checks and adjustments can only be made by a Certified Pool Operator not the lifeguard on duty. To meet this requirement would require additional DPW staff time that is not readily available. To meet this requirement in our other pools we have installed automatic devices.

1. *Why CPA money? Why can't funds come from operating budget, JCPC or other sources?*

Funds are being requested from CPA funds for two reasons, the first being that JCPC requests were submitted with budget requests in November and this was not identified in time to meet that deadline. The second is that CPA funds can be used for recreational upgrades.

2. *Is this an operating or capital expense?*

This is a Capital request. Operational funds will be used to meet the new operational requirements until the upgrade is complete.

3. *Why is request coming from DPW and not LSSE?*

This request is from the DPW because we handle the maintenance and upgrades of parks. LSSE could have submitted the request as well but it is easier this way.

Our second request is for funds to conduct an evaluation and develop a scope of work for any needed repairs to the Sweetser Park Fountain. This request has come about from our daily operation of the fountain. We have notice spalling and/or erosion of the fountain bowl and support in addition to offset stones and loose joints.

1. *How long has it been since previous restoration and why is it needed so soon?*

The fountain went through a major renovation that ended in 1995. We are hopefully not talking about a major renovation, but it has been 18 years since anything other than cleaning out debris and washing the stones has been done.

2. *Has cost of repair gone up in addition to donation of \$20,000 from Rotary for maintenance and repair?*

The cost to repair the fountain has not gone up. This money is to develop a scope of work for a new project to address any repairs the fountain needs now.

3. *Need more information on history of fountain and prior repairs and expenditures in the past decades. Why historic and recreation (recreation falls under open space). What is historical commission's position? What is the priority? Is recreation a mistake?*

When the application was submitted both the recreation and the historic classifications were checked. The reasoning behind this is that the fountain and its park are historic in nature as well as a recreation area. The park is within the Dickinson Historic District. The following is from the Town web site:

“In 1902, the private park west of Churchill Street was donated to the Town of Amherst by Luke Sweetser's children - J. Howards and Lucy Sweetser - as an "ornamental park" to bear their father's name. In 1913, another well-to-do Amherst merchant, Enos Foster Cook, donated funds for a fountain in this new park. However by the late 20th century, the park had fallen into disrepair. The Cook Fountain and portions of the park were restored in the 1990's.”

4. *Is \$15,000 the actual cost? How was this arrived at? Need more detail on the estimate.*

The cost is an estimate based on a rule of thumb from a professional who works in this field.