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To: Town Council

Fr: Paul Bockelman, Town Manager  
Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works

Dt: June 1, 2021

Re: Public Way Request: North Pleasant Street and McClellan Street Intersection Crosswalks

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**Recommendation:**

Approve the conceptual plan titled “North Pleasant Street and McClellan Street Intersection Improvement Project” dated May 3, 2021 showing improvements to the North Pleasant Street and McClellan Street intersection to include raising the intersection and installing two new crosswalks on North Pleasant Street at the intersection.

**Background:**

The Town has worked toward making improvements to Kendrick Park since the conceptual design by the Cecil Group was developed after extensive public discussion in 2010-2012. Included in this memo is a drawing showing the existing park area with the Cecil Group proposal shown in dashed lines, what has been constructed since 2012 shown in solid black lines, and the proposed work at the North Pleasant and McClellan Streets intersection shown in solid blue lines.

The Town has made sidewalk and lighting upgrades along the East Pleasant Street and Triangle Street sides of the park as part of other construction projects. The soon-to-be-completed playground will be the first improvement to the interior of the park and the first active use area. The playground work also included the completion of one of several walkways across the park to tie the park to the neighboring streets.

The Cecil Group plan envisioned several new and improved crosswalks to enhance resident access to the park from the surrounding neighborhoods. The proposed intersection improvements will tie the residential areas west of North Pleasant Street to Kendrick Park and provide clear, safer access to this valuable downtown park.

**Proposed Changes:**

The following changes are proposed to the North Pleasant/McClellan Streets intersection:

1. Raise the intersection to provide traffic calming for vehicular and bicycle traffic.

2. Make ADA crosswalk improvements in accordance with standards, specifically installing tactile warning treatments and required walkway slopes and cross slopes. No ramps are needed since the intersection is raised.
3. Construct two new crosswalks across North Pleasant Street at the intersection with McClellan Street.
4. Connect the sidewalk from the intersection's new crosswalks to the park sidewalk leading to the new playground.

**Considerations:**

The construction of the new Kendrick Park playground (paid for through a major grant and Community Preservation Act funding) will create additional foot and vehicle traffic as people seek to access the major new facility.

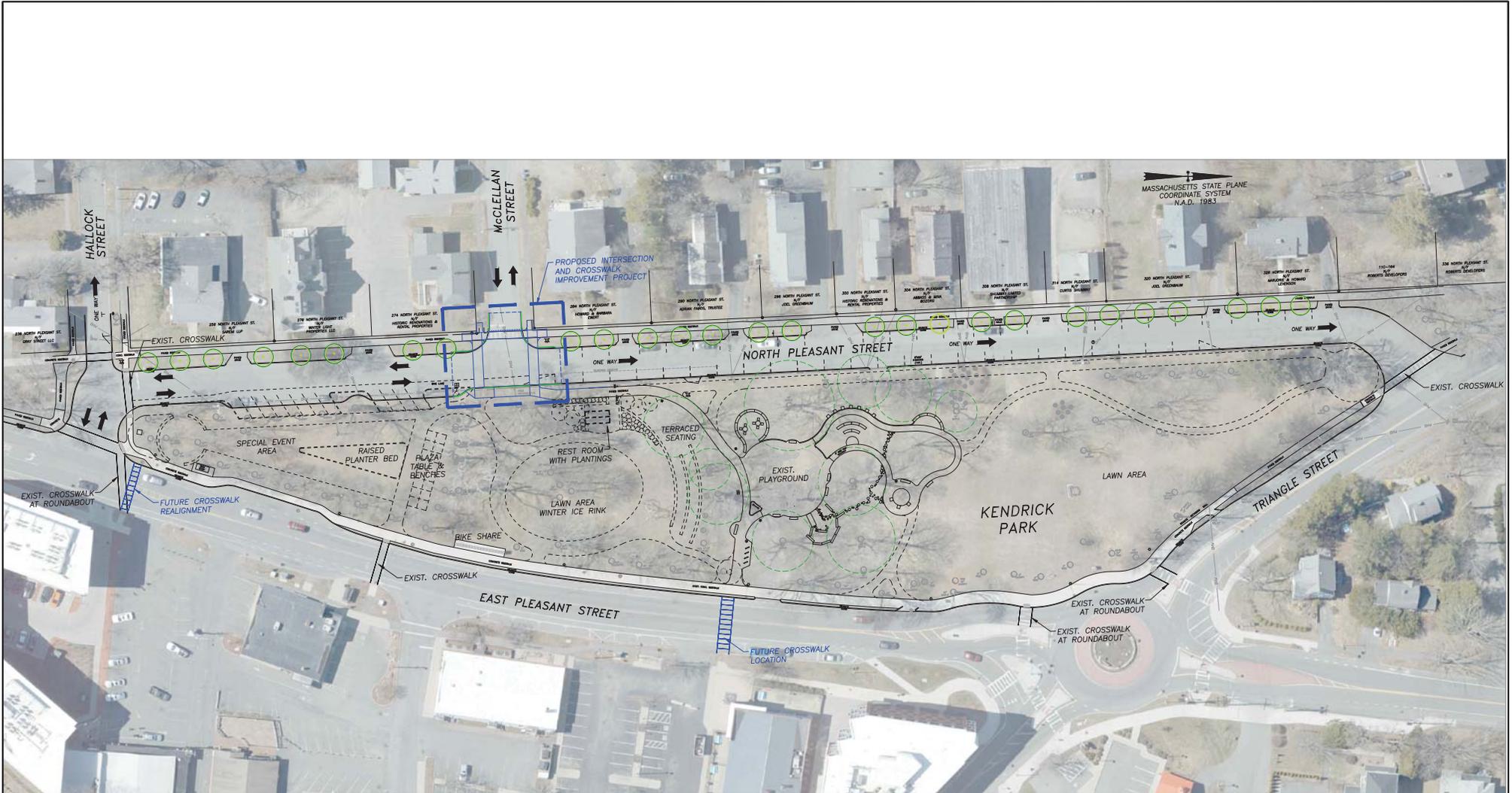
The proposed crosswalks provide defined, safe crossings to from the west side of North Pleasant Street and introduces a raised intersection to promote traffic calming for vehicles traveling down North Pleasant Street or entering North Pleasant Street from McClellan Street.

There will be no impact on neighboring properties and no loss of parking spaces.

In the future, Town staff will be investigating additional improvements to bring to the Town Council for its consideration.

Two, in particular, warrant study:

1. Making North Pleasant one way from McClellan Street to Triangle Street. This would allow for either:
  - a. The addition of 25 on street parallel parking spaces on North Pleasant Street, OR,
  - b. The relocation of the Kendrick Park western sidewalk to the currently paved area, thus avoiding the removal or significant root damage to about ten existing trees.
2. Removing the grass belt on the western side of North Pleasant Street from Triangle Street to Hallock Street would allow for both 1a and 1b (above) to be constructed and would add 7 new parallel spaces on the western side of North Pleasant from Hallock Street to McClellan Street. There are currently no street trees in this grass belt.



**NOTES:**

1. NORTH PLEASANT STREET TO BE CHANGED TO ONE WAY TRAFFIC FROM MCCLELLAN STREET NORTH. ADDITION OF 22± PARALLEL PARKING SPACES ON EAST SIDE OF ROADWAY.

**LEGEND**

-  FUTURE STREET TREE PLANTINGS
-  CONCEPTUAL PARK AND PATH SYSTEM LAYOUT (MODIFIED LAYOUT BASED ON THE CECIL GROUP SCHEMATIC DESIGN, DATED 4/25/2011)
-  FUTURE CROSSWALK LOCATION
-  PROPOSED INTERSECTION AND CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



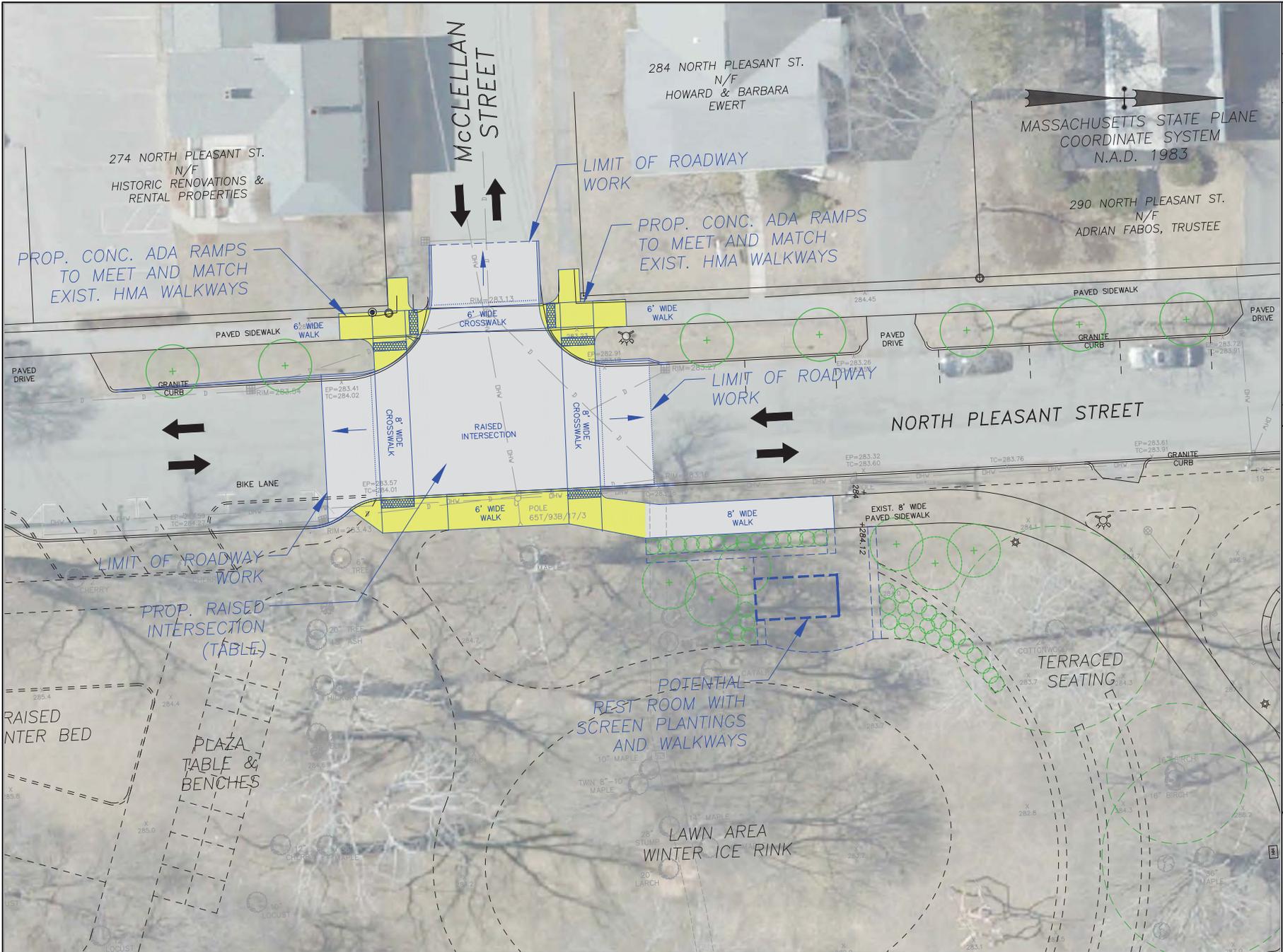
**TOWN OF AMHERST  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ENGINEERING DIVISION**

**KENDRICK PARK - CONCEPT PLAN**

**NORTH PLEASANT STREET, EAST PLEASANT STREET  
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01002**

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

DRAWN BY: PGD  
DATE: APRIL 2, 2021  
JOB NO.: TP20-15



REV.	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE

JOB NAME: **NORTH PLEASANT STREET AND McCLELLAN STREET INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
 LOCATION: **NORTH PLEASANT STREET, AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01002**

DRAWN BY: PGD CHICKO BY:  
 SCALE: 1"=10'  
 DATE: MAY 3, 2021  
 JOB NO.: TP20-15

CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT PLAN

SHEET 1 OF 1

**TOWN OF AMHERST**  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 ENGINEERING DIVISION  
 586 SOUTH PLEASANT STREET  
 AMHERST, MA 01002  
 413-259-3030

