



Amherst Massachusetts

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

June 10, 2022

To the: Town Manager
Town Council Finance Committee:
Town Council

Attached is the CPA Committee's Special Report to the Town Council for Fiscal Year 2023. We hope you will find the project described herein worthy of your endorsement and approval.

We welcome your questions and we thank you in advance for your support of the Community Preservation Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Marshall
Chair



Amherst Massachusetts

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) Special Report to the Town Council for FY2023

The Community Preservation Act Committee is pleased to present this report to the Town Council outlining a special borrowing article we are recommending for Fiscal Year 2023. The Committee has reviewed the revised High School Track proposal submitted by the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District this spring and offers its unanimous support (8-0 with one vacancy).

Background and Rationale

The Regional School District (RSD) submitted its original proposal for track replacement last fall. That application proposed to reconstruct the track in its current orientation. Because an earlier study of the High School fields and nearby Town-owned fields (not solely the track) envisioned reorienting the track to allow other improvements, the Committee was unwilling to approve the project at that time and requested additional information. The RSD then designed funding programs for two options (one that reorients the track and one that does not), and its plan was approved by the Regional School Committee with a funding deadline of January 2023. With the authorization of Town Council, the Town has already provided for a borrowing of \$1.5 million, which the Committee was told would be adequate (that is, without more CPAC funds) to rebuild the track in its current orientation. The borrowing article that we are recommending is specifically for the option that reorients the track and makes other improvements to the recreational facilities. If sufficient funds for that project are not secured, CPAC funds will not be used.

The proposal to reorient and reconstruct the track and associated fields and event spaces meets CPAC goals for projects that are broadly supported across the community, Town departments, and the public, addresses documented needs for recreation. Please note that CPA monies cannot be used for artificial turf fields or most permanent structures such as bleachers.

Project Details- Recreation

Amherst-Pelham Regional School District: Track replacement "Option 3," as presented to CPAC during its meeting of June 2, 2022 - borrowing authorization of \$800,000. If other planned funding does not reach the Option 3 target and the track cannot be reoriented, the borrowing of CPAC funds will be rescinded.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Marshall, chair, Recreation Commission representative

Sam MacLeod, vice-chair, representative at large

Sarah Eisinger, representative at large

Andrew MacDougall, Planning Board representative

Tim Neale, representative at large

Hetty Startup, Historical Commission representative

David Williams, Housing Authority representative

Katie Allan Zobel, representative at large