

Article 24: Recreation Land Purchase Bond (by petition)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred twenty five thousand and 00/100 (\$625,000) (Gross Budget) to purchase a land parcel and further develop said parcel to replace Recreation Cemetery Fields, and to authorize said funds to be raised through the issuance of bonds, bond anticipation notes or serial notes therefore in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes in their judgment, and to further authorize the Selectmen to contract for and expend any Federal or State aid that may be available for this project and to further authorize interest earned on this bond to be utilized to pay for costs associated with the parcel purchase. It is contemplated that the amount to be raised by bonds or notes will be offset by available public or private grants, and other sources of donations of which the Board may become aware and in its discretion determine to accept; and the Board of Selectmen is authorized to accept such monies on behalf of the Town.

- The Recreation Commission unanimously recommends a yes vote. The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-1.
- This article has a tax impact of \$0.04.

Thank you for your attendance and consideration this evening. If you have additional questions please contact the Recreation Commission or Department. Please be sure to vote: March 9- - Souhegan High School 6AM-8PM.

Amherst Recreation

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Town of Amherst

Recreation Commission



Support of Warrant Article 24

Frequently Asked Questions

Deliberative Session:

February 3, 2010

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why does the Town need to replace Cemetery Fields & Playground?

The Cemetery Trustees have notified the Recreation Commission that they will need the approximate 42 acres, known as Cemetery Fields, to develop Forestview Cemetery.

2. Has a comparable replacement parcel been identified?

Yes. The Open Space Land Acquisition Committee recommended to the Board of Selectmen and the Recreation Commission a 57.2 acre parcel located on Stearns Road, commonly known as Brewster Fields.

3. Will the Stearns Road parcel accommodate the loss of space at Cemetery Fields and allow for future growth?

Yes. The playground, two (2) flat multi-purpose fields and the 60' baseball diamond can be relocated to the Stearns Road parcel. The new parcel contains four (existing) flat-multi-purpose fields, community gardens, ample space for the playground and has access to approximately 2900 feet along the Souhegan River. The parcel has expansion potential for both passive and active recreation, i.e. walking trails, canoe launch, and athletic fields.

4. What is the benefit of purchasing the Stearns Road parcel over other undeveloped land in Amherst?

Amherst can benefit both short and long term with this purchase:

Short Term:

- Access & parking available to accommodate immediate transition from Cemetery Fields to Stearns Road
- Cost of maintaining existing fields less than building new fields

(Note**Recent 9-acre development costs of Bean Fields included 2.5 multi-purpose flat fields and one 60' baseball diamond were approximately \$450,000 on land owned by the Amherst School District.)

Long Term

- Potential for future conservation, passive and active recreation as recommended by the Recreation Program and Facilities Master Plan.

5. When will the replacement fields and playground be ready for use?

The multi-purpose playing fields will be made part of our field use schedule once ownership is conveyed. The Recreation Department will relocate the playground before the Cemetery Fields lease agreement expires.

6. Who will use the Stearns Road parcel?

Use of the new property will be available to a variety of Amherst residents including but not limited to: field use for recreation programs, Amherst private sports' organizations, schools, and conservation and passive recreation.

7. How will the maintenance and development costs be funded?

The maintenance costs associated with Cemetery Fields will be phased out and allocated to the Stearns Road parcel as time develops. The majority of these costs are covered by user fees. Development costs will be phased in over time using available funding i.e. grants, contributions from Amherst sports organizations, capital user fee initiatives, etc.

8. What will the tax impact mean to the Amherst taxpayer if the \$625,000 bond is approved?

15 year Bond

<u>Assessed Home Value</u>	<u>First Year Assessment</u>
\$250,000	\$9.08
\$400,000	\$14.53
\$550,000	\$19.98