

Select Board Endorses Spending \$1.4 Million Of CPC Funds For New Track

Thu, 01/14/2021 - 6:33pm Heraldgroton

by *Connie Sartini*

At their virtual meeting on Monday night, Groton Select Board voted 4 to 1 to approve the Community Preservation Committee application from the Town for construction of a new Middle School track that is jointly submitted by the Select Board and Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee. The land where the new track is to be built is owned by the Town and School District. Town Manager Mark Haddad advised that this his application has already been approved by the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee.

Selectman Josh Degen was the sole dissenting vote.

The CPC Application is for \$1,405,374 and would come from the CPC Recreation Account. It is believed that the Town of Groton received 41 percent in CPA Matching Funds in Fiscal Year 2021, and if this carries through over the next several years, the track would be supported by State funding as well (possibly up to \$576K of the overall project cost).

The need for the new track is based on the location of the planned new Florence Roche Elementary School, which will require that the existing regulation track be removed to accommodate the new building.

According to the Owners Project Manager (OPM), the new track would not be eligible for reimbursement under the MSBA Program and the project has already reached its maximum reimbursement for site costs so the Town of Groton would be responsible for the entire construction costs.

Due to the fact that the funding request is in excess of any one ability of the CPA to fund the project, the application includes various bonding scenarios.

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