



## THE HAGER PARK COMMISSION

Town Hall - 11 South Street  
Westminister, MA 01473

### MEETING MINUTES

3 November 2021

5:00 PM

Town Hall Room 112

CCM, MEP, APW

Guests: Adam Hurd

CCM made a motion to recommend the transfer of the six acres on the easterly side of Route 140 to the Public Safety Building Committee (PSBC) for construction of a new public safety building. APW seconded.

APW indicated the he has reconsidered his early support of the transfer. He said that he now feels that land was donated to the town for specific purposes should not be used for other purposes. He has reviewed the language in the will and thinks Hager's intentions were clear. He felt that approving this would create a bad precedent and could result in the loss of other parts of HP. He is unsure about the need for a new public safety building and thought that if the project was to progress that the building should be located in the center of town rather than down on Route 140. He feel that the use (hiking, etc) of HP could be increased by better signage rather than having the security of a public safety parking area to start from.

MEP started by saying that he believes that the site is a good one for a public safety building and that sometimes conversion of open space by municipalities has been done in the past as was done for the Fitchburg Water Treatment Plant. The conversion of the proposed area would be incidental to the other portions of the HP but should be replaced by a parcel of equal or greater value. He then discussed the need for a timely commitment from the town to provide replacement recreation / open space land for HP to compensate for the land loss to public safety. He moved to amend the original motion to condition the transfer of the land on the creation of a memorandum of understanding to guarantee that land of equal value be identified or purchased within 12 months of the Town Meeting vote or the vote would "sunset" and the land would revert back to the HPC.

At this point, Adam Hurd spoke in opposition to the transfer echoing some of the points raised by APW. He also felt that the six acres of abutting land that the Town had voted to accept from Peter Normandin / JEKN, LLC at the last Annual Town meeting really could not be used to compensate for the PSBC land transfer because the process to accept this donation had been started back in 2008. CCM indicated that the 2008 vote to accept involved different owners and acreages.

CCM seconded to motion to amend the original motion. CCM and MEP in favor, APW against. The motion carried.

CCM stated his feeling about the land transfer. He believes there is a need for a new public safety building and that the HP site is a good one. He thinks that with the transfer and a memorandum of understanding, there will be benefits to HP. A public safety building with a portion of the parking area dedicated to a HP trail head, kiosk and parking would generate more use of the hiking trails. He feels the current isolated parking area can be perceived to be less secure. He also feels that the transfer would put the HPC in a better position for funding for land or other projects in the future. He supported a shorter timeline for commitments for replacement land, but also feels that the Normandin / JEKN, LLC land should be included in this discussion.

Voted on the amended motion. CCM and MEP in favor, APW against. It is Town Counsel's opinion that a unanimous vote is necessary for the land transfer to proceed. CCM will advise the Town Administrator, Fire Chief and Police Chief of the vote.

Adjourned 5:45 PM