

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Recreation Department
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Shirley Canniff
Leslie Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Phil Lasker
Scott Walker
Josh Fenollosa - Associate
Sarah Carrier- Associate

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
7:00 PM - REMOTE MEETING via ZOOM

AGENDA

- 1) Bench Donation – Robbins Farm Park – Jennifer Tripp
- 2) Capital Project Updates
 - A - Spy and Parmenter Playgrounds
 - B - Robbins Playground Design Process
 - C – Arlington Reservoir Phase II – Complete with punch list in spring
 - D - Stratton, Peirce, Bishop ARPA Project –Complete with punch list in spring
 - E – Hurd Field Project
 - F – Poets Corner Discussion
 - G – Arlington Court Needs Assessment
 - H – FY 2024 CPA Requests – Hills Hill Mountain Biking Project & Menotomy Rocks Park Playground/Picnic Area
 - I – Other
 - Artificial Turf Discussion with Conservation Commission Update
 - Organic Turf Plan Investigation with PJC Organic
- 3) Public Management Plan /Review of Final Draft
- 4) Approval of Minutes – 1/23/2023
- 5) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
 - a) Open Space and Recreation Plan Review -TBD
 - b) Off Leash Program Review – Proposed Meeting February 28, 2023
 - c) AHS & Public Art Request Review– Proposed Meeting February 28, 2023
- 6) Correspondence Received: Disability Commission (Poured in Place), Historical Commission (Menotomy Rocks), Hills Hill (Reid, Park, Fix)
- 7) New Business
- 8) Public Comment

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Feb 14, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufumhpzggG9Qb0sSEmTORzHHIMoceOY0h>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



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PARK and RECREATION COMMISSION
422 Summer Street
Arlington, Massachusetts 02474

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation

Phone 781-316-3880 Fax 781-641-5495

COMMISSIONERS

Jen Rothenberg Leslie Mayer Shirley Canniff Phil Lasker Scott Walker Sara Carrier Scott Lever

GIFTS FOR PARKS FORM

Contact Name: Jennifer Trip Date of Request: 1/17/23

Organization: _____

Private or Non-Profit Group(501 c3): _____

Address: 328 Park Ave

Phone: Home _____ Cell 781-354-0381

Email: jennatripp63@gmail.com

Intended Gift (please select one):

Park Bench

Picnic Table

Bike Rack

Planting/Tree

Donation Costs: (Actual equipment + installation fee + estimate of maintenance over 8 years)

Park Bench _____ \$ 3000.00 (installation & maintenance for 8 years)

Picnic Table \$ 4000.00 (installation & maintenance for 8 years)

Bike Rack \$ 3000.00 (installation & maintenance for 8 years)

Park Requested: Rt Skyline Farm

Recognition Plaque Text (see attached policy details for specifics):

Peter David Tripp DVM

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

Signature

1/17/23
Date



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January 23, 2023

Dear Joe Connelly,

We would like to express our support for the Robbins Farm Playground renovations proposed by Agency Landscape and Planning. We are greatly appreciative of everyone's work to make sure this is an inclusive space for all. However, we do feel strongly that the below items are included in the renovations:

1. Handicap parking. We understand this may be out of the scope of work for renovations, but without HP parking the playground will not be truly accessible. We are aware the slope of Eastern Ave, along with the existing streetscape, makes it harder to situate HP spots. We believe Massachusetts Office on Disability can do site visits to advise on more complex areas like this.
2. Smooth walking/rolling surfaces that are wide enough to easily share with other visitors to the playground. Given the grade of the hill we believe it is important to provide smooth and wide paths around the playground.
3. Lots of seating for both children and caretakers.
4. Augmentative/Alternative Communication (ACC) Board. ACC boards help individuals express thoughts, wants and needs, feelings, and ideas using manual signs, gestures, photographs and line drawings. A communication board allows neurodivergent children to communicate with others at the playground, creating a more inclusive environment for all.
5. Sensory break areas. For neurodivergent children, we feel it is important the playground has an area where they can take a sensory break.

We hope that Agency Landscaping and Planning will consider these items when finalizing their plans for Robbins Farm Playground.

Best regards,

The Disability Commission
Town of Arlington

THE ARLINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION
WHITTEMORE ROBBINS HOUSE
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476
Menotomy • 1635 West Cambridge • 1807 Arlington • 1867

February 24, 2022

Park and Recreation Commission
Phil Lasker, Chair
c/o Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington, MA
(Delivered via email)

This letter is written to provide information about the hearing held by the Arlington Historical Commission in November, 2022.

Decision by the Historical Commission

Menotomy Rocks Park is listed on the Town of Arlington *Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties* since 1980, revised in 2022.

The Commission convened a hearing to discuss two 10-foot benches in a style from the 1930s, that have been repaired and maintained consistently for many many years, were removed by the Parks and Recreation Department in order to be replaced with accessible benches on pads of concrete with a space for a wheelchair. They were removed without the consideration of the history of the park or of how the benches have been maintained over the years.

Peter Howard and JoAnn Robinson, Co-Chair of the Historical Commission, attended a meeting at the Park and Recreation Commission to discuss this issue. In addition Ms. Robinson met with Doug Heim, our town counsel, who confirmed that the Commission has a responsibility to provide guidance to the Park and Recreation Commission and the Town of Arlington when changes are proposed. Tim Rose, new Coordinator for Disabilities, was also contacted regarding this issue and indicated that preserving the historic benches is not required since other sites can be selected with guidance from the Historical Commission to place accessible benches.

Peter Howard, hired by the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park to maintain the benches, shared his presentation that he had given to the Park and Recreation Commission. The two original benches of concern are located on the North side of Hill's Pond. He shared pictures and slides about this situation. In conclusion Peter Howard made these recommendations:

1. Preserve the historic fabric of the Park
2. Destroy no more original benches
3. Replace the two benches that were destroyed. This could be accomplished by
 - a. Duplicating the original design locally for a rough cost estimate of \$2600 each
 - b. Purchasing similar benches are available for \$2067. These may need to be customized for \$2510, plus the costs for assembly, shipping, and installation

Commissioners commented on the removal of the benches and agreed that the benches should be replaced and expressed their appreciation of Peter Howard's work in the park.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stange and seconded by Commissioner Meister that we strongly recommend that the two benches that have been removed be restored with benches in the style of the original benches from the 1930s. An amendment was made by Commissioner Meister that we work with the Park and Recreation Commission and other interested parties that new installations will be compatible with the structures at Menotomy Rocks Park.

The revised motion was unanimously approved by the vote of the members of the Historical Commission.

Notes:

Judy Weinberg, Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park and Phil Lasker, Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission, attended the meeting.

The discussion with the Historical Commission included recommendations for additional steps that can be taken to develop a plan to survey and document the historic treatment of Menotomy Rocks Park. A master plan for the park can open up access to significant grants that provide resources to fund work in the park. A master plan would provide guidelines to preserve and restore the park that is trusted by the organizations that give grants. Historic Landscape Preservation grants are available from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and other preservation organizations.

Heritage landscapes like Menotomy Rocks Park are special places created by human interaction with the natural environment that help define the character of a community and reflect its past. They are dynamic and evolving; they reflect the history of a community and provide a sense of place; they show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns; and they often have scenic qualities. The wealth of landscapes is central to each community's character, yet heritage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing. For this reason it is important to take the first steps towards their preservation by identifying those landscapes that are particularly valued by the community

To this end, the Historical and Cultural Resources Working Group with members from the Historical Commission, the Historic Districts Commission, and the Open Space Committee have collaborated with the Planning Department to identify and study the important landscapes and buildings in Arlington.

We would be happy to provide the information that we have gathered.

The primary goal of the program is to help communities identify a wide range of landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected. An important goal of our program to provide strategies for preserving heritage landscapes like Menotomy Rocks Park.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Robinson
Co-Chair
Arlington Historical Commission

From: Daniel Reid <dreid1991@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 02/04/2023 06:38 PM
Subject: Supporting Hill's hill bike project

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Hi,

I'm writing to support the proposed Hill's hill bike project. This looks like a great way to enhance Arlington's outdoor recreational opportunities. The area is already more or less a series of unofficial bike trails, and this project looks like it would take what the children have shown they want and improve it.

As a parent of a one-year-old, I'm looking forward to when, in a few years, my son can hop on the Minuteman, then ride over to the bike park to get good and tired out.

Thanks,

Daniel Reid
38 Edgehill Rd
Arlington

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From: Sunyoung Park <sunyoungp2@gmail.com>
To: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 01/30/2023 03:07 PM
Subject: Hill's Hill bike park proposal

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Dear Mr. Connelly,

As new residents of Arlington, we wanted to add our input to the proposed mountain biking trails for Hill's Hill. Although we are new to the area, one of the best things we have found about Arlington is the town's commitment to the preservation and promotion of its natural green spaces. We reviewed the bike park presentation, feasibility study, and schematic design. While this initially appears to be a good opportunity, and we are overall proponents of more bike-friendly spaces, we are concerned it would adversely affect the wildlife living in this area. Even if there are not currently identified endangered species in this area, it is still an important habitat for local wildlife, and we would hate to see that be destroyed. As the SWOT analysis states, there is relatively small space for trails. This combined with the feasibly high cost of upkeep, which will likely be exasperated by inclement weather patterns, seem to make this larger project undesirable. We advocate for further study and perhaps revisions that could lead to a more eco-friendly solution that will protect our natural spaces and wildlife.

Many thanks,
Sunyoung Park and John Williams
(Silk St. residents)

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From: Gemmae Fix <gemmaefix@gmail.com>
To: "jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 01/29/2023 07:01 PM
Subject: Pro Hills Hill

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Hi Joe-

I asked a few of my friends about all the "Save Hills Hill" signs. My neighbor Ellen suggested contacting you. I want to be in the PRO Hills Hill Mountain Bike group.

I live by Stratton and walk and run by Hills Hill almost daily. I've seen far more trash and teenagers drinking, than owls. I love owls, but in my decade here have only seen one near Hills Hill. I don't even know how to ride a bike, but I am VERY excited about this piece of land getting an upgrade.

Please let me know how I can support the efforts to improve this space.

Thanks
Gemmae
Chatham St

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