



TOWN OF EAST LYME

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Jerry Lokken, Director

CC: Kevin Gervais, Finance Director

DATE: May 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Request to appropriate remaining APRA funds to Parks and Recreation Park Improvement projects

Summary of Agenda Item:

The Parks and Recreation Commission seeks to have remaining funds from current ARPA projects related to parks and recreation reallocated to complete several park improvement projects that were cut during FYE2025 budget deliberations and other small projects necessary to maintain existing facilities. During those deliberations, members of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance recognized the importance of these projects and expressed interest in funding them by using remaining APRA funds from parks and recreation projects that were nearing completion rather than including them in the FYE2025 capital budget.

Approximately \$125,000 is expected to remain following completion of three existing APRA funded parks and recreation projects for Playscape Improvements, Water Fountains in Parks, and Restroom Enhancements in Parks. At the May 9, 2024 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, members were in unanimous agreement that the highest priority for park projects was to maintain existing facilities, many of which have been neglected due to lack of resources.

The Commission requests that any APRA funds remaining at the conclusion of the three projects listed above be reallocated to a new Park Improvement project to fund necessary maintenance at existing facilities. Those projects include athletic field renovations, replacement of grills, picnic table and other park amenities, repair of damaged and eroded walking paths, and other necessary tasks to begin bringing parks back to a safe and enjoyable level of service for the community. The Commission feels that this use of the funds is consistent with the stated intention of members of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.

Action Needed:

Move to approve a special appropriation to transfer any funds remaining at the conclusion of APRA funded projects 85-70-007-700-705 Playscape Improvements McCook/Peretz, 85-70-007-700-706 Water Fountains in Parks, and 85-70-007-700-707 Restroom Enhancements Parks to a new ARPA funded project for Park Improvement, and forward to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval.