



# Town of Sturbridge

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## Recreation Department

Email: [recreation@sturbridge.gov](mailto:recreation@sturbridge.gov)

**TO:** STURBRIDGE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**FROM:** ANNIE ROSCIOLI, RECREATION DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** RECREATION COMMITTEE UPDATE  
**DATE:** MARCH 17, 2021  
**CC:** STURBRIDGE RECREATION COMMITTEE, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, FACILITIES COORDINATOR

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On behalf of the Sturbridge Recreation Committee, I have prepared a brief update on our current Field Plans and Master Planning, based on the February Recreation Meeting.

Recreation has been working with the Facilities Coordinator to develop the plans for property enhancement at 60 Cedar St. With the help of McClure Engineers, the design of a new multipurpose soccer field is nearly complete. The multipurpose artificial turf field is 200 x 320 and includes 52 parking spaces. The field will have lighting, sidewalks, crosswalks, and ADA required updates such as playground flooring, fencing, and water front accessibility. At this time, due to COVID-19 impacts on the residents of Sturbridge, the Recreation Committee has decided not to bring these current plans forward to this year's Town Meeting.

Holding this project one cycle will allow Recreation to iron out details and coordination of issues that have arisen. After preliminary discussions, in addition to COVID-19 impacts, several issues make it challenging to execute this project as stand-alone:

- Conservation recommends storm water calculations for all future development.
- Planning recommends a complete site plan showing phase development, parking and traffic study.
- Town Administrator recommends completing a master site plan and showing full intent of Recreation Area layout to be executed in Phases.
- The project will trigger accessibility/ADA code improvements and requirements for the full site (within all property lines).

Based on those discussions, Recreation has obtained a quote to complete the full site plan of 60 Cedar St. In order to show full intent of the Cedar Recreation Area, the Committee wishes to complete a Concept Plan for 58, 60 and 70 Cedar St, following the 2019 request.

The Committee would like to consider capital planning and while they feel it is important to keep the current field plans for 60 Cedar St separate as Phase 1 to move forward in a future season, there is a need to complete site plans and benefits of making one, comprehensive plan for Recreation's needs. Completing a site plan for 60 and 70 Cedar St will assist to show what Recreation amenities can be hosted on both properties, as our existing Recreation Area.

Recreation continues to request previously identified needs, those being the viewing of an additional multipurpose field, dog park, parking, potentially a building, and outdoor fitness area. By completing the site plans for 60 and 70 Cedar St, and not bringing the current field project to Town Meeting, the Recreation Committee would be able to view and apply for any grants pertaining to this project.

Lastly, by completing a concept plan, the Committee will be able to compare the top priority locations for the Sturbridge Dog Park. At this time, the Recreation Committee has identified 70 Cedar St and the Sturbridge Town Barn, 3 New Boston Road Extension, as the top locations for the Dog Park on Town owned property. The concept plan would be prepared so that hired consultants will review the Town owned material for Town Barn Property, in addition to the scope for 60 and 70 Cedar St.

70 Cedar St appears to be best location for the Dog Park, which would be an enhancement to the existing Recreation Area. However, Recreation understands that the results of the prior Study on this property showed that it is a viable building location, and the placement of a Dog Park on this property would remove the room needed for any potential building, in regards to capital planning. This understanding has encouraged the Recreation Committee to view the remaining property at the Town Barn Athletic Fields, 3 New Boston Road Extension. This property does show ample room for a dog park and associated parking, and has its associated pros and cons, as does 70 Cedar St.

Once a location is determined for the Sturbridge Dog Park, the Recreation Committee will be able to pursue the Stanton Foundation Dog Park Grant. This grant may provide up to 90% of design costs, and up to 100% of construction costs.

In conclusion, completing a concept plan and cost estimate shows;

- Benefits of phased planning
- Roadway improvements
- Possible infrastructure improvements
- Marketing imaging for Townspeople to visualize the end result
- Feasibility of Sturbridge Dog Park at 3 New Boston Road Extension or 70 Cedar St
- Provides documents for grant applications and funding outside of taxpayer funds

I would be pleased to review and discuss this memo with the Board, if desired.

Thank you for your time,



Annie Roscioli  
Recreation Director