



TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information, 8 days prior** to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: June 15, 2020

Date of Meeting: June 25, 2020

Submitted by: Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Casparius

Department: Parks & Recreation

Time Required: 35 minutes

Speakers: Matthew Casparius

Background Info. Supplied: Yes: No:

CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognition/Resignation/Retirement:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Old Business:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

TITLE OF ITEM

Town Re-opening Plan Follow-up Discussion

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

The Town Council to discuss and consider the following: Youth & Amateur Sports Guidance Recommendations for Football & Cheerleading non-contact practices, Town playgrounds, Wasserman Park Function Hall, Town meeting room usage for outside groups, Conservation areas and parks & New community special event (featuring fireworks)

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	Warrant Article:	_____
Charter Article:	Town Meeting:	_____
Other:	N/A	

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easel:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Seating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop:	<input type="checkbox"/>	None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	<u>Matthew Casparius</u>	Address	<u>116 Naticook Road</u>
Phone Number	<u>882-1046</u>	Email Address	<u>mcasparius@merrimacknh.gov</u>

APPROVAL



TOWN OF MERRIMACK

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

116 NATICOOK ROAD

Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054

Telephone (603) 882-1046

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MCASPARIUS@MERRIMACKNH.GOV

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MEMO

TO: Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager

FROM: Matt Casparius, Director of Parks & Recreation

DATE: June 17, 2020

SUBJECT: Youth & Amateur Sports Guidance Recommendations for Football & Cheerleading

At the June 4th Town Council Meeting; the Council approved reopening all athletic fields and facilities except for football as it was deemed a contact sport and non able to meet the Governor's guidelines. After the meeting, we received several messages from the MYA Football & Cheerleading Program. They told me that they plenty of conditioning work that needs to be completed at the start of their season before they get to full contact. Their season typically begins in July and they feel that they are able to meet the same guidelines for non-contact that all of the other sports are able to meet. They are asking the Town Council to reconsider and allow them to begin holding non-contact practices.

Based upon my discussion with them; I feel that they can be compliant with the guidelines and would recommend to the Town Council that they allow Football & Cheerleading to begin holding non-contact practices.



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MEMO

TO: Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager
 FROM: Matt Casparius, Director of Parks & Recreation
 DATE: June 17, 2020
 SUBJECT: Playgrounds

Over the last several weeks; the Parks & Recreation Department has been getting inundated with phone calls and messages from residents wondering when we are going to open up the playgrounds in Town. We have even had people call us and tell us they are going to defy the order and use the playground anyway and then challenge us to have them arrested; which we obviously are not going to do.

One of the documents the Governor released on June 11th was for Outdoor Attractions. Under the description of what is included for outdoor attractions are "outdoor playgrounds". The requirements dictate that commonly touched surfaces and public areas should be cleaned every two hours and at the end of each day. It would be impractical to clean all 3 playgrounds in Town 3x per day and so many communities are choosing to post signage and clean 1x a day at most.

The Center for Disease Control issued a statement on June 6th that says "Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do not require disinfection. Spraying disinfectant on sidewalks and in parks is not an efficient use of disinfectant supplies and has not been proven to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the public.

The majority communities in the area either have opened their playground already or are getting ready to do so within the next week or two which is only increasing the call volume. Below is a list of those communities and their status:

- | | | |
|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| • Manchester | Opening June 19 th with COVID-19 signage | No cleaning being performed |
| • Nashua | Opening with COVID-19 Signage | Cleaning schedule to be determined |
| • Concord | Open with COVID-19 signage | Cleaning 1x per day |
| • Londonderry | Open with COVID-19 signage | No cleaning being performed |
| • Amherst | Open with COVID-19 signage | No Cleaning being performed |
| • Pelham | Open with COVID-19 signage | Cleaning 1x per day |
| • Derry | Open with COVID-19 signage | No Cleaning being performed |
| • New Boston | Tentative Open Date June 26 th | |
| • Hampstead | Tentative Open Date June 22 nd | |
| • Atkinson | Open with COVID-19 signage | No Cleaning being performed |
| • Sandown | Open Monday – Friday with signage | Cleaning 1x per day due to camp |
| • Jaffrey | Has remained open; COVID-19 Signage | No cleaning being performed |
| • Milford | Closed | |
| • Chester | Closed | |

SAFER AT HOME

OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS

This guidance applies to outdoor activities situated in recreational or natural settings that occur individually or in small groups of 10 people or less. This includes centers for biking, canoe and kayak rentals, mini-golf, outdoor driving ranges, outdoor shooting ranges, small fishing charters, paint ball, outdoor guiding services (fishing, hunting, hiking), water skiing, motorcycle rides, and other small group outdoor activities that are able to follow the guidance below.

Additionally, this guidance shall apply to outdoor and nature-based experiential attractions and businesses, including but not limited to: agro-tourism, outdoor walking trails, tours and paths, batting cages, outdoor playground, zip lines, chairlifts, ropes courses/aerial parks, disk golf, open off-road vehicle tours (no enclosure), natural science centers, garden tours, diving tours and lessons, caves, petting zoos, balloon rides, helicopter and plane rides (groups fewer than 5) and white water rafting.

Note: Attractions which involve enclosed spaces with large groups, such as amusement parks, water parks, race tracks, tourist trains, and indoor attractions will be considered for re-opening in later phases. remain restricted at this time.

Safeguarding Guidance:

The Governor's Economic Re-Opening Task Force recommends protocols for safeguarding all New Hampshire businesses and individuals during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. This industry-specific guidance is based on what is currently known about COVID-19 and is intended to protect the public's health and allow New Hampshire to remain open for business.

The intent of these recommendations is to reduce transmission of COVID-19 among employees and customers; support healthy business operations; and maintain a healthy work environment.

In addition to strict adherence to [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission \(EEOC\)](#) and [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#) guidance, and [US Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) the State of New Hampshire recommends policies and procedures to protect consumers and employees, including:

General Guidance to Protect Employees and Consumers:

1. Review and follow the [Universal Guidelines](#) for All New Hampshire Employers and Employees.
2. Review and follow the [Retail](#) guidance.
3. Review and follow the [Golf](#) guidance for driving ranges.
4. 4.) Review and follow the State Parks guidance
5. Review and follow CDC [guidance for businesses and employers](#).
6. Review and follow CDC [guidance for cleaning and disinfection](#).
7. If providing Food Services, follow [Food Service Industry](#) guidance.



SAFER AT HOME

OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS

8. Staff must wear cloth face coverings at all times when in the retail facility, in public locations or shared staff areas (e.g. break rooms), even if other individuals are not immediately present, and when interacting with clients.
 - a. Provide training on cloth face coverings based on CDC guidance for [Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#).
 - b. People wearing face coverings must not touch their eyes, nose, mouth, or face, or adjust their face mask without first sanitizing hands. After touching face or adjusting mask, hands must be sanitized.
9. All clients should be asked to wear a cloth face mask covering nose and mouth when within the facility or public spaces with other individuals present.
10. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer must be made readily available and must be placed throughout the facility, including on entry, in key walkways, in food and beverage locations, in shops, at checkout locations, and at exits. Hand sanitizer must also be provided in non-public settings such as maintenance areas, workshops, offices, and break areas.
11. Commonly touched surfaces, work areas, and public areas should be frequently cleaned and disinfected according to [CDC guidance](#) at a minimum every 2 hours and at the end of each shift.
12. Staff and clients should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others at all times.

Employee Protection:

1. Employees must be provided with education and training around safe practices as it relates to hand hygiene, sanitation (cleaning and disinfection policies), and illness policies outlined in the [Universal Guidance](#) and [Retail Store Guidance](#).
2. Employees must be screened (questioned about) symptoms of COVID-19 before each shift as outlined in the Universal Guidelines for All New Hampshire Employers and Employees. Staff with any symptoms should not be allowed to work.
3. Require all employees to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to supervisor.
4. One person per company vehicles (including trucks, over-the-road, UTV/ATV). The vehicle or work carrier should be cleaned and disinfected after each staff use.
5. Employees must work at least 6 feet apart at all times (whether indoors or outdoors) and must maintain at least 6 feet of distance with clients. Weather permitting, breaks and lunches should be outdoors when possible.
6. Shared use tools and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Consumer Protection:

1. All facilities should have a communication plan to educate guests prior to their visit about the health and safety practices at the venue and what the guests need to be aware of when they arrive. Such communication plans shall include, but not be limited to, online methods (e.g., website, social media sites), email or other electronic communication, such as reservations or confirmations, and print mailings to the guest.
2. Facilities must build social distancing into the operation of restrooms.



Given that most of the communities have opened their playgrounds and that young children are generally at a low risk to begin with; the Town should consider following suit and opening the playgrounds for use with the appropriate signage in place.

I have drafted a mock up sign for your consideration:





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MEMO

TO: Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager

FROM: Matt Casparius, Director of Parks & Recreation

DATE: June 17, 2020

SUBJECT: Function Hall Guidance

Under the weddings guidance document issued on June 5th; there is a section specific to Function Halls. Most of the rentals that we get in our Function Hall are family gatherings (birthday parties; anniversaries, etc.) although we do get an occasional wedding reception.

The guidance document allows for indoor venues to operate at 50% capacity and based on our Assembly Permit; that would allow a maximum of 50 people for a seated event. While we do not currently have any rentals scheduled July, we are getting several calls each week asking if we are open.

Per the guidance document, we would:

- Educate and information customers about policies and procedures related to hand hygiene, cloth face covering use, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection and illness policies.
- Instead of allowing renters to setup tables and chairs as they have typically done; we will build social distancing into table setup.
- If it is a catered event; kitchen staff will be required to wear face coverings while working in the kitchen and around others when social distancing is not possible.
- If the event features a bar; then the bartender must also wear a mask and the event will need to stagger attendees visit to the bar.
- Attendees will be asked to bring and wear a cloth face covering when entering and exiting the facility or when getting up to use the restroom.
- Tables will be limited to no more than 6 guests per table. Tables will be spaced at least 6 feet apart from the neighboring table.
- COVID-19 signage will be prominently displayed throughout the hall.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed strategically throughout the facility.

With Summer Camp not running this year; we would like the opportunity to open the Function Hall up for rentals with a maximum of 50 guests. We feel that we could manage the requirements set forth by the Governor. Before the pandemic hit; we had been getting ready to propose raising the rentals fees for Function Hall Rentals. With the new requirements in place; it seems like a good idea to also raise the fees at the same time. My recommendations for rental fees are on the next page. These fees were reviewed and approved by the Parks & Recreation Committee at their February 19, 2020 meeting.

**REVIEW OF FUNCTION HALL RENTAL FEES:
February 2019 – February 2020**

SURVEY FINDINGS:

- 30 rentals over the last year – average rental was 4 hours
- 22 out of 30 rentals were for family parties (birthday, holiday, adoption, etc.)
- 25 out of 30 rentals were Merrimack residents.
- Average # of participants is 73 people
- Nearly half our rentals are 3 hours but renters leave before 3 hour time limit is up.
- Just over half our events, the participants paid the additional \$50 for use of the kitchen.
- Only 4 events out of 30; had alcohol. Feedback is bartender requirement is a hassle and added insurance costs but we have to keep this requirement in place.
- In looking at other venues in the area; there is no consistency on how different venues charge their fees.
- Right now we give renters 1 hour before the event and 1 hour after the event that we do not charge them for since they have to setup the hall and then put everything away afterwards.
- Averaging 1 wedding per year.

GOALS:

- Since we are largely getting Merrimack Residents, we want to keep it affordable but as the number of rentals is increasing; we need to increase our fees to generate more revenue/reduce costs.
- Would like to offer online registration for rentals and our registration software can handle the basic 3 hour time block, but if they want more than 3 hours; the system can't block off the additional hours and charge the \$25 per hour fee. Would like simpler fee structure so that we can handle that for online registration.

CURRENT FEE STRUCTURE: (in place for the last 3 ½ years)

Group Type	Current Fee Schedule
Merrimack Residents/Businesses	\$125 / 3 Hour Time Block \$25 for each additional hour after 3
Non-Residents	\$300 / 3 Hour Time Block \$25 for each additional hour after 3
Kitchen Rental - Add On Fee	\$50 Flat Fee

THE PROPOSED FEE STRUCTURE WOULD LOOK LIKE THE FOLLOWING:

Group Type	Current Fee Schedule
Merrimack Residents/Businesses Weeknights & All Day Saturday & Sunday	\$175 / 3 Hour Time Block
Merrimack Residents/Businesses Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm	\$100 / 2 Hour Time Block
Non-Residents Weeknights & All Day Saturday & Sunday	\$350 / 3 Hour Time Block
Non-Residents Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm	\$200 / 2 Hour Time Block

ADD ON FEES (FLAT RATE PER EVENT)

Kitchen Usage	\$50 Flat Rate Fee
Screen & LCD Projector	\$50 Flat Rate Fee
Sound System and Microphones	\$50 Flat Rate Fee
Stage (3 feet x 8 feet)	\$25 Flat Rate Fee

FEES:

- Right now a Merrimack Resident pays \$125 for the 3 hour minimum (or \$41.66 per hour). In our current structure, if they rent longer than 3 hours it's \$25 for each additional hour (\$37.50/hr for 4 hours, \$35/hr for 5 hours) which is less cost effective.
- For Non-Residents they pay \$300 for the first 3 hours (\$100/hr). If they rent more than 3 hours it's \$25 for each additional hour (\$81.25 for 4 hours, \$70 for 5 hours, etc.) We are thinking of keeping it at \$100 per hour as a flat rate fee which is still double the resident rate. We're not getting many Non-Residents to begin with and think the fee may be too high. The concern is raising the fee will scare people away.

THOUGHTS & IDEAS

Kids birthday parties are our biggest draw right now and so our biggest competitors are the O'Leary Adult Community Center which has a fee structure based on the # of people in attendance (\$285 - \$800). The other big competitor would be a place like Altitude Trampoline Park which charges between \$250 - \$460 for a 2 hour event for 10 - 20 participants.

- Recommend keeping our rentals at 3 hour time blocks for nights & weekends as a flat rate fee but we eliminate the free hour of setup and breakdown time and we handle setup and breakdown ourselves since we have part time year round maintenance staff. The recommended fee would be \$175 for the 3 hour block (\$50 increase over what they pay now for 3 hours). If they want more than 3 hours, they have to purchase an additional 3 hour block of time.
- For Non-Residents, it would go from \$300 for the 3 hour block of time up to \$350 to remain double the resident fee.
- Our thought is to provide a basic setup chart which they would select their room setup option from a list of choices when they register (Choose from Option A, B or C).
- Add in a discounted rate for weekday daytime events (Monday - Friday between 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) rate of \$100 for a 2 hour block of time since we're here and can easily open the building for people. The idea would be to try and attract business groups. A location for a quick meeting or social event. It would be daytime only because we are here and wouldn't need extra staffing to come in.
- With the few weddings we have gotten, they often ask to come in the night before to decorate the hall so they are not trying to do setup on their wedding day, so we are looking at offering a special Wedding Rental Fee Rate which would give them the entire day of the wedding plus 3 hours the night before for setup. That would be the equivalent of 4 time blocks and offer a little discount off the normal price (or \$700 for 4 time blocks) so we're thinking \$600 for residents and \$1200 for Non-Residents.
- Lastly, we have a lot of AV equipment that we own already that currently only gets used for our own special events. We have a Sound system, Screen & Projector and a small stage which we can also make available for an additional flat rate fee.

1 SPECIAL MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2 MAY 19, 2020
3 MEETING MINUTES
4

5 A special meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:35
6 p.m.

7
8 Steve Perkins, Vice Chair, Presided

9
10 Members of the Commission Participating: Gina Rosati, Secretary
11 Michael Boisvert
12 Cynthia Glenn
13 Gage Perry
14 Eric Starr, Alternate Member
15 Michael Swisher, Alternate member
16 Tim Tenhave, Alternate Member
17 Councilor Peter Albert (participation began at 6:50 p.m.)
18

19 Members of the Commission Absent: Matt Caron, Chair

20
21 Also Participating: Denise Roy, Chief, Merrimack Police Department
22 Kyle Fox, Director, Public Works Department
23

24
25 Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis, and in accordance with [Governor Sununu's Emergency Order](#)
26 [#12](#) pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Commission is authorized to meet electronically.

27
28 Vice Chair Perkins noted, as stated on the agenda, the meeting was being aired live on Merrimack TV and
29 the Merrimack TV Facebook Live page (<http://www.facebook.com/merrimacktv>). Telephone access was
30 available for members of the public wishing to provide comment; 1-312-626-6799 US / 1-929-205-6099
31 US (Meeting ID: 931 1799 3783).

32
33 Also identified on the agenda was the opportunity for public comment to be submitted leading up to the
34 start of the meeting via email to: ConservationCommission@MerrimackNH.Gov. (copies attached).

35
36 Commissioners were participating via Zoom. In accordance with [RSA 91-A:2 III](#), each member of the
37 Commission was asked to state, for the record, where they were, why their attendance in person was not
38 reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with them, and whether or not they were able to hear the
39 proceedings.

40
41 Vice Chair Perkins

42
43 Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due
44 to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

45
46 Commissioner Rosati

47
48 Stated she was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical
49 due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.

1 Commissioner Swisher

2
3 Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due
4 to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

5
6 Commissioner Glenn

7
8 Stated she was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical
9 due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.

10
11 Commissioner Perry

12
13 Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due
14 to COVID-19, he was home with his family, and could hear the proceedings.

15
16 Commissioner Starr

17
18 Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due
19 to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

20
21 Commissioner Boisvert

22
23 Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due
24 to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

25
26 Commissioner Tenhave

27
28 Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due
29 to COVID-19, he was home with family although alone in the room he was in, and could hear the
30 proceedings.

31
32 It was acknowledged all members participating electronically could be heard. The Commission was
33 reminded all votes would be taken by Roll Call.

34
35 *Vice Chair Perkins designated Eric Starr to sit in for Matt Caron and Michael Swisher for Councilor*
36 *Albert.*

37
38 **NEW BUSINESS**

39
40 **1. Parking at Wildcat Falls** - Commission to discuss parking issues and overflow parking into the
41 surrounding Currier Road neighborhood, as directed by the Town Council. The Commission is inviting
42 public comment limited to this specific agenda item.

43
44 The Commission, along with the Highway Safety Committee, was asked by the Town Council to provide
45 feedback on the parking concern at both Wildcat Falls and the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP). The
46 Commission manages both parcels; however, its jurisdiction does not extend beyond the entrance of the
47 parking lot.

48
49 Vice Chair Perkins commented on the belief a good deal of the discussion may be centered around on-street

1 parking, the hope the discussion would be used to catalyze those areas that are within the jurisdiction of the
2 Commission to address, and that the result would be the development of alternatives and a recommendation
3 that can be forwarded to the Town Council.

4
5 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

6
7 A short video provided to the Commission by Amy Simoneau, 6 Fir Street, was shared
8 (<https://youtu.be/Im41OuANoX8>).

9
10 Amy Simoneau, 6 Fir Street

11
12 Moved to the area looking for a quaint neighborhood with minimum traffic on a dead-end street. She spoke
13 of the increase in traffic overflow at Wildcat Falls over the past 3 years. Having talked with others in the
14 area, she has learned this has been occurring since well before 2011 when the parking lot was expanded.
15 She is hopeful a good solution can be reached so that the area will be safe, and the wetlands protected.

16
17 Commissioner Perry noted the role of the Commission is advisory, and any decisions reached would be
18 forwarded to the Town Council as recommendations.

19
20 Andrew Duane, Recording Secretary, Wildcat Falls Sub-committee

21
22 Commented during the few times he has been in the area over the past few weeks, he has witnessed
23 significant overflow on the street; many cars with out-of-state plates. The sub-committee has been aware
24 of the parking limitations for some time, and previously considered options for expansion.

25
26 The immediate concern is the increased traffic due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions. The current
27 situation is viewed as a worst-case scenario. However, over the past several years, on a nice weekend in
28 peak summer, the same situation has been seen; parking lot full and vehicles parked on Currier Road.

29
30 The current lot has a capacity of approx. 15 cars. Although previously signed as no parking, with the
31 unapproved removal of the signs, there is room for about 6 additional vehicles parked along the left-hand
32 side. The sub-committee considered utilizing other Town properties such as the parking lot at the high
33 school as overflow parking for Wildcat Falls. It is believed that could be a good long-term solution for the
34 summer months as well. Such an action would have to be coordinated with the School Board and Town
35 Council.

36
37 The Wildcat Falls trails, through the Town Center trail extension, connect with the high school parking lot.
38 It is believed utilizing the high school lot would be one of the best short-term options for increasing the
39 parking capability, and that it should be coupled with signage at the park entrance and perhaps also at the
40 kiosk (strenuously suggesting people not park on the street and identifying where the overflow parking is as
41 well as other Town parks). It could also be announced on social media and a map kiosk could be erected at
42 the alternate trail entrance to help people navigate back into the rest of the park.

43
44 For the long-term, there are parking lot expansion possibilities. A few simple expansions could provide 5-
45 10 additional spaces and more aggressive approaches could result in 15, 20, or 30 additional spaces.
46 Because of the neighborhood Wildcat Falls is in, perhaps such a large expansion is not feasible, and what
47 should be looked at is limiting traffic to the area.

1 Paul Marone, 29 Currier Road

2
3 Has resided here for 4 years. The fact that it is a quiet, dead-end neighborhood is one of the reasons his
4 family purchased the property. He has seen an increase in traffic each year. He spoke of the concerns
5 voiced regarding high traffic, speeding, parking, trash, and influx of people from out of state. Having
6 reviewed some of the security footage from his residence (12 houses before the entrance to Wildcat Falls),
7 on Sunday between 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. he counted 147 vehicles driving by his home and 93 vehicles between
8 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

9
10 On an average Sunday when traffic starts as early as 9:00 a.m. and can continue through 7:00 p.m., given
11 the numbers seen, if you average it and bring it to around 120 cars and lower the 9-10 hours of volume to 6
12 hours, you come out with 720 cars driving by in a 6-hour period. If you consider the number of people in
13 each vehicle and average that to 3, you end up with 2,150 people coming into Wildcat Falls from this
14 entrance, which is a lot of traffic for a dead-end street with 12 houses on it.

15
16 Mr. Marone commented on being thankful for the efforts of the Police Department with regard to patrols,
17 no parking signage (one side of road), response to emails, etc.

18
19 He believes everyone in the neighborhood would agree that expansion of the parking lot might alleviate
20 some of the on-street parking, but it would not lower the volume of people coming into the neighborhood.
21 He does not believe that would be helpful. He is in favor of utilizing an alternate overflow parking location
22 as a long-term solution. As an immediate solution, he would not be disappointed to see the lot temporarily
23 closed until a solution can be identified.

24
25 Heidi Marr, 17 Currier Road

26
27 She has resided here since 1997. The immediate measures that have been taken to stop the flow of traffic
28 have been wonderful. She spoke of the high speed of traffic on the street. Another issue is the trash that is
29 being left behind. She believes overflow traffic at the high school is a viable option, and perhaps could be
30 a permanent entrance, particularly on weekends.

31
32 Councilor Albert

33
34 Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due
35 to COVID-19, he was home with his family, but alone in the room he was in, and could hear the
36 proceedings.

37
38 He was told residents in the Currier Road neighborhood were taking the temporary no parking signs down.

39
40 Heidi Marr, 17 Currier Road

41
42 Responded she is uncertain if the residents were the ones removing the signage; however, most of the signs
43 seem to have stayed up. She believes most of the residents have no issue with the signage. It has definitely
44 stopped some of the traffic.

45
46 Commissioner Rosati commented the situation at Wildcat Falls is not new or the result of COVID-19.
47 Amy Simoneau sent an email to the MerrimackOutdoors address back on September 23, 2019 addressing
48 trash and dog waste that was left on the trails. Commissioner Rosati spoke of an email she received from

1 Grace Wilson, 35 Currier Road, and of further communications with Ms. Wilson. Ms. Wilson is unable to
2 call in, but did submit public comment, and has asked that it be read into the record:

3
4 *“My mom and I live in the house on the corner right next to the entrance to the parking lot at the falls. My
5 mom has lived here for 55 years, and I have lived here 50 years. We have never had any issues living on the
6 land adjacent to the falls until the Town purchased it, put the parking lot in, and publicized its location.*

7
8 *We and the neighbors fought against the lot going in, but were not listened to. Our concerns of more
9 traffic, partying, drugs, drinking, and vandalism has come to pass and has made our neighborhood unsafe
10 and has brought us to this moment.*

11
12 *We didn't realize the Town was going to publicize the parks' whereabouts in travel magazines and the L.L.
13 Bean catalog and YouTube. We would have fought against that as well, and we could have told the Town it
14 was not in the best interest of the Town or neighborhood or the park to do this.*

15
16 *It has created a mess, and has become disruptive to our way of life. We have counted over 150 cars on the
17 recent Saturdays and Sundays. Cars, people, animals all day long. We even had a tour bus from Canada
18 drop over 75 people off last year, and the bus idled for over an hour before it finally moved. The
19 neighborhood called the police and we were told, "it's a nice day and a holiday, don't worry about it". That
20 was the end to our neighborhood safety and homey feel.*

21
22 *Addition to the heavy traffic, cars are blocking our driveways and mailboxes and the only fire hydrant,
23 people are throwing trash and allowing their pets to defecate on our lawns. The street is so crowded with
24 cars that people and their dogs are walking on all the lawns to get to the entrance to the falls trespassing
25 on our property. They hang out on our lawns playing loud music and talking loudly and just being rude to
26 the people who live in the homes. We even had sunbathers on our lawn with their car stereo playing and
27 them laying on our lawn in swimsuits, they didn't care they were trespassing.*

28
29 *The cars are parked one on top of the other in front of our homes. A lot of us have sprinkler systems and
30 the tops get broken off due to being driven over when cars park on our lawns. Each time there is a cost to
31 us to repair our sprinkler systems.*

32
33 *The increased traffic has taken away our safe neighborhood so children can no longer ride bikes or play or
34 walk their dogs. People cannot walk down the street due to the amount of cars and the speeds they are
35 traveling at. Our posted 20 mph speed limit sign went missing.*

36
37 *Cars attempting 2 way traffic when cars are parked in front on one side of the street creates gridlock. Cars
38 are parked on the right-hand side often blocking the fire hydrant, creates dangerous conditions for
39 emergency vehicles to get down the street, park and stage rescue and recovery. They normally park in front
40 of our house, and this won't happen if the cars are allowed to continue to park at the lower circle of
41 Currier Road. Cars will have to be towed and precious time would be lost for a rescue or putting out a
42 fire.*

43
44 *The Town has another access point to Wildcat falls near Merrimack High School, and there is ample
45 parking at the other entrance. The repairs to the footbridge should be a top priority and the Currier Road
46 access should be used for local and foot traffic only. There is no reason why the Currier Road
47 neighborhood families' lives should be disrupted with another access point available to the Town and
48 visitors.*

1 *While the bridge is being repaired, I am asking that no parking signs be placed on the entire lower circle of*
2 *Currier Road. You have placed them on the left-hand side, but no one was parking on the left-hand side to*
3 *begin with, they are parking on the right-hand side. We need the right side around the lower circle no*
4 *parking as well.*

5
6 *My personal story ties into what is going on with the amount of traffic and people parking on our lawn and*
7 *in front of our home on Currier Road.*

8
9 *I have PTSD, Panic Disorder and Anxiety Disorder along with 2 different brain injuries I received in a car*
10 *accident. What people don't understand about PTSD is it comes on suddenly by being triggered. Mine is*
11 *triggered by the opening and closing of car doors and trunks slamming, the locking of cars with the*
12 *beeping and the car alarms going off. My brain injuries make me need a quiet lifestyle without a lot of*
13 *crowds or activity. It's why I live at home and not in the city. My home on Currier road has always been*
14 *my safe haven. Wildcat Falls has always been my place of calm and tranquility, but I don't feel safe*
15 *anymore.*

16
17 *My PTSD is triggered, and my panic and anxiety attacks are amplified. Add a lot of strangers walking in*
18 *front of my home, and I don't feel safe. I don't feel safe in a home I have lived in for 50 years. The woods*
19 *that gave me solace, now give me fear. I live in a constant state of panic and anxiety to the point where I*
20 *don't go outside in my front yard very often anymore. My bedroom faces the street. I have had to move my*
21 *bed as far from the windows as possible. I don't open my windows or my shades anymore because every*
22 *time I look out I see strangers out front, and it sets off my conditions. I shouldn't have to live like this. I*
23 *shouldn't be afraid in my own home or out in my yard, in my neighborhood or down the trails I*
24 *know like a second skin. My whole way of life has been affected by the amount of cars and strangers in*
25 *front of my home.*

26
27 *Having no parking on the lower circle, especially in front of our home, would help on so many levels. It*
28 *would allow our children to ride their bikes, play, and walk their dogs. It would allow traffic to flow easier*
29 *to and from the lot. It would allow emergency vehicles a place to stage and rescue. And lastly, it would*
30 *personally assist me and calm my PTSD episodes, my anxiety disorder, and panic attacks so I could*
31 *function more normally on a daily basis. I would feel safer in my home and outside in my yard. Our*
32 *neighbors should be able to have their children play and ride their bikes and dogs should be walked*
33 *without the fear of being hit by people speeding down the road. This is an older neighborhood. Most of us*
34 *have lived here over 40 years. Help us re-establish the safety of our neighborhood and open the access*
35 *point near the high school. Close parking on Currier Road for people heading to the falls. Thank you*

36
37 *Grace Fairbairn Wilson*
38 *35 Currier Road"*

39
40 Paul Marone, 29 Currier Road

41
42 Stated there are many in the neighborhood that have a good deal to say, but may not feel comfortable
43 voicing their concerns in this type of setting. He has spoken with nearly every resident in the
44 neighborhood, and everyone is on the same page. He is aware there are a few residents further up towards
45 Baboosic that might not see the volume as easily because they are a little further removed and may have
46 had some questions about signage. However, he has personally witnessed, on numerous occasions, people
47 parking at the Falls taking signage down, throwing it in the woods, and parking. He has gone out himself,
48 almost on a daily basis, to retrieve the signs and put them back up.

1 A lot of people in the neighborhood are in support of resident parking only on the street as a solution with
2 the idea that if the parking lot is full people will eventually find the other entrances. He suggested there
3 could be resident/visitor parking passes and the ability to share driveways.

4
5 Commissioner Tenhave provided a presentation (can be viewed [here](#) (tape counter 47:48)).

6
7 On April 23, 2020, the Town Council made the request of the Highway Safety Committee and the
8 Conservation Commission to review the situation with the traffic overflow in the neighborhoods
9 surrounding the entrances to Wildcat Falls, Grater Woods, and HHNP, and report back to the Town
10 Council.

11
12 Displayed was a photo of the traffic situation as viewed on Saturday, April 25, 2020 (11:25 a.m.); all spots
13 were filled, cars parallel parked where there were signs (2012) to disallow that, cars along Hemlock at this
14 time, police officer on bike patrol outside of camera view interacting with the public, and more cars coming
15 and attempting to park. Asked if he was aware of when the no parking signs were removed, Commissioner
16 Tenhave stated his belief that occurred within the first few years after the parking lot was expanded.
17 Commissioner Perry stated the purpose for disallowing parallel parking along that side was to allow access
18 to emergency vehicles when the lot is full. Commissioner Tenhave commented an additional reason was
19 the close proximity to the wetland.

20
21 The presentation covered potential options for consideration:

22
23 Near term (1-6 months)

- 24 - reset the current lot for more/less spaces
25 - close the current lot or other restrictions
26 - additional parking (or not) utilizing the streets in the neighborhood
27 - do nothing or anything else

28
29 Councilor Albert questioned increasing the size of the parking lot. The suggestion of closing the lot for the
30 time being concerns him as he believes it would increase the amount of on-street parking.

31
32 Commissioner Rosati stated her opposition to expansion of the lot. Although the sub-committee had
33 brought that discussion before the Commission last year, after speaking with some of the neighbors, she
34 now feels expansion would increase the amount of traffic, and would not address spillover onto the street.
35 She would prefer to close it, and allow the situation to calm. After speaking with the School Board, she is
36 aware they are interested in working with the Commission to allow for overflow traffic to go to the high
37 school lot.

38
39 She spoke of the level of publicity. In the most current L.L. Bean catalogue, Wildcat Falls is listed as a
40 hidden place people should visit.

41
42 Commissioner Perry stated agreement the lot should not be expanded further. That was an approach taken
43 at the HHNP, and on a nice sunny day, there remain vehicles parked on the street. Unless there is an
44 Ordinance enacted prohibiting on-street parking, it is legal. If there are people trespassing, it is an
45 enforcement issue.

46
47 Commissioner Boisvert stated agreement commenting there is no easy solution. There is the need for
48 parking enforcement. One of the residents mentioned the possibility of permitted street parking. He
49 looked at the trail entrance by the high school, and does not believe it to be viable for the short term as it is

1 difficult to locate the entrance to the trail. He would like to look into the high school parking lot as a long-
2 term alternative. There is nothing the Commission can do about Wildcat Falls being on TripAdvisor and
3 all over the internet. He does not believe that was done by the Town. Closing the lot off may cool things
4 down, but he is uncertain he agrees with that approach.

5
6 Denise Roy, Chief, Merrimack Police Department, remarked there are 3 officers and a supervisor on the
7 street during a pandemic. They get down to the area as much as possible. The situation is not only creating
8 a problem for the residents, but for the department as well as they are taking people away from what they
9 need to be doing to put them down there. She has pulled the reports for the past 10 years, as requested. To
10 date this year, they have had 7 complaints at Wildcat Falls. If there is a problem, there is the need for
11 residents to contact the department. She spoke of a call received over the weekend from an individual who
12 indicated that 2 days prior there was a car parked in front of their mailbox and they could not get their mail.
13 It is impossible for the department to do enforcement two days after an incident.

14
15 A few weeks ago an officer was located at the station and received a call that cars were parked on both
16 sides of the street down at Wildcat Falls and Currier Road. It took about 31/2 minutes to get down to
17 Currier Road, and there was not one single car parked on either side of the road. On one hand we are
18 talking about cars being parked on both sides and on the other receiving a letter indicating the signs on the
19 left side do no good because cars are only parking on the right side. It is one or the other. The frustration
20 comes from everyone wanting the police to enforce these things and for officers to get down there, but you
21 have to remember we are in the midst of a pandemic; there are many other issues they are dealing with in
22 Town, and they don't have any more officers than they did before the pandemic. Because of the pandemic,
23 people want to get out.

24
25 Chief Roy stated the need to be patient and understand that things will get better as time goes on. She
26 reiterated the need for residents to contact the department when incidents occur. She cautioned residents
27 about taking photos of cars with Massachusetts license plates and sending them. There is no law that
28 indicates someone from Massachusetts cannot come up here, and there are a lot of people who work in
29 Massachusetts and have cars that are registered out of Massachusetts, but they reside in New Hampshire,
30 rental cars, etc. That is a slippery slope. She cautioned people to not judge someone by their license plate.

31
32 The parking signs the Police Department put up were an attempt to help to ensure there were no incidents
33 with parking on both sides of the road prohibiting emergency vehicle access. The department has not
34 received any calls whatsoever this year for cars parked so that a fire truck could not get through.

35
36 Commissioner Swisher stated his is not in favor of completely closing the property, but did come across an
37 idea; perhaps temporarily turn the property into a resident only park. The primary issue with parking and
38 chaos in the neighborhood seems to be one of volume. Most of the problems disappear, including the need
39 to expand the lot on maybe all but the best summer days, if residents only. That could buy us time if we
40 were to go that route until there is an alternate access point in place. It is a small neighborhood park,
41 originally named Eighty Acres. The numbers provided of the amount of individuals coming in and out of
42 the neighborhood over the weekends are jaw dropping to him.

43
44 He is uncertain the option of the high school parking lot would work when school is in session. Ultimately,
45 he would like to see all access for the general public coming out of Watson Park. Perhaps, at that point, the
46 lot in the Currier Road neighborhood could be resident only. If not making it resident only, expanding the
47 lot would take some cars off the street.

1 Councilor Albert commented on other access points noting Kyle Fox, Director, Public Works Department
2 (PWD) was available to discuss the foot bridge. He requested he be asked to provide that information at
3 this point noting the closed foot bridge takes significant access away from the park. Commissioner
4 Tenhave stated, if also the will of the commission, he was hopeful Director Fox could speak to expansion
5 options as well as the Town Loop Trail.
6

7 Kyle Fox, Director, PWD, remarked the pedestrian bridge that connects over the Souhegan River (next to
8 the F.E. Everett Turnpike) connects East Chamberlain Road to West Chamberlin Road, the high school,
9 and down into the trails and into Wildcat Falls, and will eventually tie into the Souhegan River Trail
10 project.
11

12 The bridge was recently closed. The NHDOT did a bridge inspection last fall and determined there were
13 deficiencies. Because of access to the underside of the bridge, they could not really tell how significant the
14 problem was or was not. The Town hired a consultant to do an in-depth inspection. The inspectors were
15 out there for 3 days and removed most of the wood planks to be able to see the structural steel members
16 under the decking. What they found was significant rusting, pinholes, and some baseball sized holes in the
17 structural members below the decking, which forced the immediate closure of the bridge.
18

19 On Friday of last week the inspection report was received from the consultant confirming the decision to
20 close the bridge. The report went on to discuss repair or replacement options. For this bridge, repair is not
21 really an option. Because of the way corrosion has taken place, were we to fix some of the worst members
22 to get it back open, it is likely only a short period of time before other members would corrode causing it to
23 be closed again. The only viable solution seems to be replacement. The estimate is approx. \$660,000. He
24 is of the belief the PWD and the Town Manager will be discussing this with the Town Council at some
25 point. In the meantime, Director fox is reaching out to NHDOT to determine if there are bridge or alternate
26 transportation programs from which short-term funding might be obtained so that we can get that critical
27 connection back open. At this point, being outside of budget season, and happening rather quickly, we do
28 not have any plans.
29

30 Commissioner Starr spoke of having visited Wildcat Falls several times over the past few weeks. On
31 weekends he has seen 83, 66, and 56 cars (about 2:00 p.m. each day) and on weekdays he has seen 33, and
32 today there were 15 cars, which was capacity for the lot. He has taken measurements of the proposed
33 parking lot area. Were the lot expanded, at its most aggressive, we would see capacity go to 35. It would
34 not meet the demand of the current situation although it would help during the hot summer days.
35

36 What he has seen as the best solution is for the high school parking lot to be utilized as the main lot when
37 school is not in session. The distance from the high school parking lot to the trail to the park on the other
38 side of the bridge is about a ½ mile walk. The main trail is not well maintained and has a lot of steep
39 edges. There is a second trail behind the softball field that is much safer, but also much more hidden.
40 There would have to be directional signage. He noted the retention pond near the current entrance has seen
41 a lot of trash.
42

43 Commissioner Glenn stated agreement with not expanding the parking lot reiterating the experience at the
44 HHNP. She questioned if the Commission has the authority to restrict the area to residents only, and if so,
45 how that would be enforced. She suggested another possibility to be to completely close the entrance to
46 vehicles and pedestrians. If only closing the lot, people will just park on the street. She questioned if
47 residents have voiced an opinion relative to no parking on the road.

1 Councilor Albert stated his belief there would have to be an amendment to Town ordinances to address
2 resident only parking. He commented on the use of tags/stickers at Wasserman Park and the onerous
3 burden it has been.

4
5 Commissioner Perry echoed the remarks of Chief Roy that residents need to reach out to the Police
6 Department when a situation is occurring. He questioned the Commission's ability to restrict public
7 property to residents only and whether an ordinance can be put in place restricting parking to one side of a
8 street. Anything suggested to the Town Council would have to be supported and approved by the Council
9 to become part of the Ordinance before the police could enforce it.

10
11 The police have put up temporary no parking signs. If that is enforceable by them great, but he does not
12 think the residents want signs in front of their front yards all the time. He is uncertain there are a lot of
13 options for the short term.

14
15 Commissioner Swisher suggested speed bumps could be an option to address speed concerns.

16
17 Commissioner Rosati suggested changing the name back to Eighty Acres. She is aware the Community
18 Development Department receives quite a few calls from people wanting to know about the water falls.
19 She suggested taking information off the website for a period of time. There is the need to let some time go
20 by and the current situation calm.

21
22 Chief Roy commented because speed was a concern that kept coming up, a speed sign was placed in the
23 neighborhood, which captured an average of all speeds. Eighty five percent of vehicle traffic follows the
24 speed limit or under. There were a few here and there that exceeded the 30 mph speed limit. Eighty five
25 percent is fairly good for a neighborhood of that size, especially given that straight away. There are other
26 roads where only 50% of the time people are going the speed limit. Speed does not appear to be a factor in
27 this neighborhood; it is an average speed.

28
29 Commissioner Tenhave remarked when he resided in the area, the Highway Safety Committee was asked
30 to look at the issue of speed, and the numbers were pretty similar to what the Chief just spoke about. There
31 was a 20 mph sign put up. Those signs are advisory; not required. To make that sign permanent required a
32 number of other activities, e.g., legal process to have a speed limit below 30 mph in a residential area.

33
34 Councilor Albert questioned the peak traffic times and number of vehicles.

35
36 Commissioner Starr commented he did some quick research on the legality of banning non-residents from a
37 public park, and found two cases; Connecticut Supreme Court and New Jersey Supreme Court. Both found
38 that you cannot legally ban non-residents from a public park.

39
40 Commissioner Rosati questioned if Wildcat Falls is a public park or a Town owned park that we have a
41 measure of control over. Commissioner Tenhave stated uncertainty there is a legal differentiation.
42 Commissioner Rosati questioned how the Town is able to do it at Wasserman Park.

43
44 Councilor Albert noted a restriction associated with Federal funds utilized at Wasserman Park disallowed it
45 being a resident only park. However, based on how the money was expended, we could control access to
46 the water. That is why the beach is residents only. It would depend on how we came about acquiring
47 Eighty Acres/Wildcat Falls, and whether there is any language that would prohibit it.

1 Commissioner Tenhave stated the Town purchased the property from the State of New Hampshire for \$1 in
2 1970 with no strings attached. The Deed is fairly simple.

3
4 Councilor Albert stated he would bring the issue up to the Town Manager, and perhaps legal counsel could
5 be asked for an opinion.

6
7 Commissioner Perry suggested if the Police Department has captured information on peak traffic times it
8 might be a good way to provide targeted enforcement. If they are able to put up no parking signs and limit
9 on-street parking that could be done right away.

10
11 Asked about grant funding the department received in 2015, Director Fox stated his belief what was being
12 referred to was the DOT and Federal Highways Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funding.
13 The Town was successful in receiving 2 grants. The first was for the Souhegan River Trail project and the
14 second for the Woodbury sidewalk. The Souhegan River Trail project turned out to be far more
15 complicated and expensive than anticipated. The 2 grants were merged to fund the one project. As of
16 Monday, the environmental document for Federal Highway was submitted to NHDOT by the consultant
17 along with the final preliminary design. Once approval is received on those documents, we will move into
18 final design. There is the possibility of construction next summer or the summer following depending on
19 when Federal funding is available.

20
21 Paul Labrie, 30 Beebe Lane

22
23 This current situation has made people aware of the wonderful parks that exist in Merrimack. He does not
24 believe the level of traffic will return to what it was 3-6 months ago. He cautioned the Commission on
25 being mindful that whatever action is taken at Wildcat Falls will have an impact on the other properties.

26
27 He suggested the Town investigate resident only parking on the streets. He spoke of residents of Beebe
28 Lane leaving notes on cars; have had a problem with people parking perpendicular on the road. When
29 someone parks that way there is a much smaller turning radius; cars cannot turn around and end up backing
30 out into driveways. Notes are left on the trailhead sign explaining how to park in a cul-de-sac.

31
32 He suggested residents have to take it upon themselves to call people out on activities such as throwing
33 trash out, parking in front of mailboxes or blocking driveways, etc. People have to get involved. You have
34 to take it into your own hands sometimes.

35
36 Chief Roy stated she does not believe it is a smart choice to confront anyone on any issue. If there is a
37 parking problem, residents should contact the police department. If you start confronting people it will
38 create more problems.

39
40 Director Fox displayed the plan for the Souhegan River Trail project. The project was conceived before
41 2009 by the Town Center Committee with the development of the Pedestrian and Trail Master Plan as part
42 of their iTRaC project. This was the #1 trail project on the plan. The project focuses in the southwestern
43 portion of Watson Park. The existing horseshoe shaped sidewalk in Watson Park is where the river trail
44 project will start. It will start at the existing sidewalk, come down through the fenced in area, and
45 eventually work its way into the old tannery beds below D.W. Highway. He pointed to an area on the plan
46 delineated in a light yellow color noting the existing sidewalk at the road surface level that is covered with
47 steel plates. The project will address that issue as they will fill in the entire area.

1 The trail will wind its way into the sluiceway that is part of the Chamberlain Bridge. It will make its way
2 through the sluiceway and get over towards the area of the fire station (lower). Will move past the fire
3 station and cross where the old impoundment of water used to be. Prior to the Pennichuck dam being
4 removed there was a large wetland area. Once the dam was removed, the barriers holding the water back
5 eroded away and the area is now fairly dry although it remains pretty hydric soils and will require
6 supportive structure work to place a large culvert in to maintain the stream crossing and to support the trail
7 through that area.

8
9 Eventually, the trail makes its way to the other side of the impoundment where the trails go up into Wildcat
10 Falls and the pedestrian bridge that is currently closed. Director Fox displayed a photo of the connectivity
11 of the trails in Town.

12
13 Paul Marone, 29 Currier Road

14
15 Reiterated police officers have had a presence in the neighborhood. He is under the impression their hands
16 have been tied in many situations with what they can and cannot do. He commented on how the area has
17 become a destination point for people from all over and in high volumes.

18
19 He is of the belief the police are unable to ticket motorists parked in front of the temporary no parking
20 signs.

21
22 Chief Roy responded they cannot issue tickets. The temporary signs were erected out of courtesy to try to
23 prevent people from parking there. The issue has been before the Town Council, but in order to make that
24 enforceable, it has to go through a process of the Town Council, which includes a Public Hearing. At this
25 point, it is just to try to keep people from parking on both sides of the road, which the department has not
26 been finding as a problem.

27
28 Paul Marone, 29 Currier Road

29
30 Commented on having noticed over the weekend that the temporary no parking signs were helpful. He
31 suggested it is an indication perhaps the resident only parking in this neighborhood would be effective.

32
33 *There being no objection, the Commission recessed at 8:39 p.m.*

34 *The Commission reconvened at 8:42 p.m.*

35
36 Commissioner Tenhave continued his presentation noting additional suggestions for alternatives moving
37 forward:

38
39 Next year (6-12 months)

- 40 - expansion of the current parking lot
41 - additional parking locations utilizing different access points to the property
42 - do nothing or anything else

43
44 Commissioner Tenhave displayed a photo showing the end of West Chamberlain Drive commenting that
45 option would rely on there being a pedestrian bridge, which we no longer have open. That could be
46 something that needs to be looked at in the much longer term.

47
48 Director Fox addressed access from Watson Park utilizing the Souhegan River Trail. He commented on the
49 size of the parking lot for Watson Park, guessing it does not go beyond 20-25 spaces.

1 Another option is access from the high school. There are two trails.

2

3 Commissioner Tenhave commented on having been on the Town Council during the time the pedestrian
4 bridge went in. The Council was looking at options for getting to the property and relieving parking while
5 the highway stuff was going on, and looked at a bridge over by the ballfields and behind the highway
6 garage as an option, but the width of that bridge made it fairly cost prohibitive.

7

8 One or more years out

9 - Watson Park connection through Town Loop Trail to Wildcat Falls

10 - do nothing or anything else

11

12 Commissioner Tenhave questioned the will of the Commission.

13

14 Councilor Albert suggested pulling the information off the website for a period of time may be helpful.
15 Residents need to contact the police department in real time. He questioned if the Commission should be
16 getting to the trails behind the high school and clearing them to provide for better access and providing
17 better signage to make them more accessible. Longer term suggestions would be for residential only
18 parking and residential only use of parks along with improvements such as replacement of the footbridge.

19

20 Commissioner Rosati read in to the record the letter received from Dr. Mark McLaughlin, Superintendent,
21 SAU 26:

22

23 *"In response to your email, I'm pleased to tell you that at last night's School Board meeting, the Board*
24 *authorized Administration to reach out to you regarding your request relative to parking, etc. We will be*
25 *happy to partner with you for sure. I have reached out to our Maintenance Director and Business*
26 *Administrator for guidance about signage, etc. I will get back to you shortly with answers to that and other*
27 *questions. What is your timeframe for firm answers? Again, we will do whatever we can to support the*
28 *Conservation Commission with this request, it may just take a day or so to address the particulars. I look*
29 *forward to partnering. Regards, Mark McLaughlin"*

30

31 **MOTION BY COUNCILOR ALBERT TO REMOVE REFERENCE TO THE WILDCAT FALLS**
32 **CONSERVATION AREA FROM THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE**

33 **MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI**

34

35 ON THE QUESTION

36

37 Asked about the amount of effort involved in removing the information, Commissioner Tenhave stated it
38 would be somewhat of a challenge, and may require some assistance from the web designers. It may be
39 that there is some expense involved.

40

41 Asked about the number of hits the website receives, he indicated, he no longer sees the number of views
42 the website receives. Commissioner Boisvert questioned whether the effort would have the desired effect,
43 e.g., whether that is the source of how people find out about Wildcat Falls, and commented on the
44 likelihood the information is reaching more people through the L.L. Bean catalogue, etc.

45

46 Commissioner Perry stated a desire to first determine if removing a portion of the website is something that
47 can be done in the manner desired, as he would not wish to take the website apart to accomplish something
48 we cannot be certain will have an impact. Commissioner Tenhave stated his belief he could accomplish

1 most of the intent of the task without incurring a cost. There are more ways to find Wildcat Falls on the
2 internet than Merrimack Outdoors although it does pop up near the top of the list if doing a Google search.

3
4 *A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:*

5
6 Yea: Commissioner Rosati, Councilor Albert, Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Perry,
7 Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Boisvert, Vice Chair Perkins

8 7

9 Nay: 0

10 **MOTION CARRIED**

11
12 Commissioner Perry questioned if the police department has identified the times of high traffic volume, and
13 if there is the ability for patrols during those times to determine if a police presence will have an impact.
14 Chief Roy stated she would provide information on the times of high traffic counts. Commissioner Perry
15 stated the desire for enforcement during high traffic times. Chief Roy responded, even in the busier times,
16 they will try to get there as frequently as possible, but it is not always possible.

17
18 Asked if the temporary no parking signage would remain for the coming weeks, Chief Roy indicated the
19 signage would remain at the moment. She was uncertain of the exact timeframe for when it would be
20 removed although she anticipates it will likely come down within the next few weeks. Commissioner
21 Boisvert suggested consideration be given to leaving it up. Chief Roy noted that decision has to come from
22 the Town Manager. It was at the direction of the Town Manager that the signs were erected.

23
24 Vice Chair Perkins noted that in addition to any recommendations coming from the Commission, the
25 Highway Safety Committee would also be making recommendations to the Town Manager and Town
26 Council.

27
28 Chief Roy indicated the Highway Safety Committee would meet the following week.

29
30 **MOTION BY VICE CHAIR PERKINS TO RECOMMEND THE HIGHWAY SAFETY**
31 **COMMITTEE LOOK AT THE CONTINUED USE OF THE TEMPORARY NO PARKING SIGNS**

32
33 ON THE QUESTION

34
35 Chief Roy reiterated the no parking ban has to come from the Town Council. The temporary signs were
36 erected after consultation with the Town Manager and Town Council as a means of trying to eliminate
37 some of these problems. The only way they can remain for an extended period of time is if going before
38 the Town Council; has to be for an event or an emergency. This is not considered an emergency or an
39 event. That is the only time those signs can be erected and be enforced. She indicated the discussion of no
40 parking would take place at the committee meeting.

41
42 Asked if another item for discussion would be around the possibility of resident only parking, Chief Roy
43 responded it would be something the committee would discuss; however, any formal action would be that
44 of the Town Council.

45
46 Councilor Albert stated he would present to the Town Manager that the signs be left in place regardless of
47 whether or not they are enforceable, and will support that with the Town Council.

1 He questioned the possibility of allocating overtime for directed patrols during the peak traffic times in that
2 neighborhood. Chief Roy stated she would discuss that with the Town Manager.

3
4 It was recognized that Chief Roy, Chair of the Highway Safety Committee, had heard the concerns of the
5 Commission, and would bring them forward to the committee.

6
7 **MOTION WITHDRAWN**

8
9 Commissioner Rosati suggested removing the word "Falls" from the name. Although not an immediate
10 result, if removing "Falls" or changing the name of the property back to Eighty Acres (name changed when
11 property size increased) eventually, people would forget. Those who have just discovered hiking because
12 of our present circumstance, will forget about it after a while.

13
14 She believed the idea behind the purchase of the property was for it to be a community treasure; a place to
15 be preserved for the community. She does not wish to draw attention to the fact that there are waterfalls.
16 After the tour bus that visited the property, she received a message from another that wanted to bring two
17 busloads full of Italian tourists who had come to Boston to attend the opera, were going to the outlets, and
18 wanted to visit the waterfalls.

19
20 **MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE WILDCAT**
21 **FALLS CONSERVATION AREA TO EIGHTY ACRES**
22 **MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ALBERT**

23
24 ON THE QUESTION

25
26 Vice Chair Perkins commented he wonders if the damage is done. What we have been through in the past
27 8 weeks has forced people, who never knew the trails existed before, to use it repeatedly. Were we to
28 change the name, how long would it really take for a move like that to gain traction and start dissuading
29 out-of-state visitors from coming to us?

30
31 Commissioner Perry remarked changing the name will not remove it from the other websites, etc.

32
33 Commissioner Tenhave noted the Commission can only recommend a name change. A change would have
34 to go through the Town Council. Councilor Albert stated his belief the next meeting of the Town Council
35 has not yet been scheduled. He is hopeful it will be within the next few weeks. At the very least, it could
36 be 1-1½ months before such a change would become official, if supported.

37
38 Commissioner Rosati remarked this would not solve the immediate problem, but is something she believes
39 would be a long-term solution.

40
41 Asked if Wildcat Conservation would be too similar a name to accomplish the desire effect, Commissioner
42 Rosati stated her belief it would.

43
44 Commissioner Boisvert believes there to be the potential, in the long term, the wording might make a
45 difference (be more lost on the internet).

1 *A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:*

2
3 Yea: Commissioner Rosati, Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Boisvert, Councilor Albert
4 4

5 Nay: Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Starr, Vice Chair Perkins
6 3

7 **MOTION CARRIED**

8
9 Commissioner Tenhave suggested removal of the Heritage Trail sign at the intersection of Currier Road
10 and Baboosic Lake Road and anywhere else on the property where there may be such signs. With the
11 wood cutting that was done in 2010/2011, updates to the sewer system going in, the trail, in its original
12 form, no longer exists.

13
14 **MOTION BY COUNCILOR ALBERT TO REMOVE THE “HERITAGE TRAIL” SIGN FROM**
15 **THE INTERSECTION OF CURRIER ROAD AND BABOOSIC LAKE ROAD AND ANY**
16 **OTHERS LOCATED ON THE CURRENT PROPERTY**
17 **MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSATI**

18
19 *A Vice Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:*

20
21 Yea: Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Rosati, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Starr,
22 Commissioner Boisvert, Councilor Albert, Vice Chair Perkins

23 7
24 Nay: 0

25 **MOTION CARRIED**

26
27 Councilor Albert indicated he would contact the Town Manager and make her aware of the
28 recommendation of the Commission. Noted was that the signage was purchased and erected by the
29 Heritage Trail Committee, which was disbanded some time ago (likely before 2007). Councilor Albert
30 stated the request would be made for the signage to be removed, and, if required, he would request the item
31 be placed on an agenda for the Town Council.

32
33 Commissioner Starr questioned if the Commission has the authority to erect a sign at the entrance of
34 Wildcat Falls directing overflow parking to the high school parking lot. Commissioner Tenhave suggested
35 that to be an action that should be done in conjunction with the School District.

36
37 Commissioner Rosati stated she was waiting for direction from the Superintendent of Schools. She
38 questioned if there is the need to clear trails from the high school before erecting signage. Councilor Albert
39 responded they can be walked, but there is the need for trail clearing.

40
41 Commissioner Starr spoke of being in the area earlier in the day noting the trails are not in perfect
42 condition, but are visible. He volunteered to return to the area the next day and clear the trails. The trail
43 behind the softball field is pretty clear. It is the first trail you see that is a little hidden. It is a bit more
44 complicated; fallen tree, etc. The trail is not perfectly defined, but anyone walking the trail would be able
45 to see where to go next.

46
47 Asked about trailhead signage and trail markers, Commissioner Perry noted it to be school property, and
48 the need to coordinate any signage with the School District. Commissioner Tenhave cautioned doing any
49 maintenance on the trail prior to understanding if that is desired.

1 Commissioner Rosati was asked to follow up with the School District so that the subject could be revisited
2 at the next Commission meeting.

3
4 Commissioner Perry responded to the question of placing signage at Wildcat Falls directing overflow
5 parking indicating that is within the abilities of the Commission, but if directing traffic to the property of
6 another, we should first meet with that property owner.

7
8 **MOTION BY COUNCILOR ALBERT TO ENCUMBER THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED**
9 **DOLLARS (\$200.00) FOR THE CREATION OF TWO TRAILHEAD SIGNS FOR THE TWO (2)**
10 **TRAILS OFF OF O’GARA DRIVE. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN FUND 53**
11 **MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR PERKINS**

12
13 ON THE QUESTION

14
15 Commissioner Boisvert commented on the trail by the softball field needing a sign directing people to it
16 from the high school parking lot.

17
18 **AMENDED MOTION BY COUNCILOR ALBERT TO ENCUMBER AN AMOUNT UP TO**
19 **THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) FOR THE CREATION OF THREE (3) TRAILHEAD**
20 **SIGNS**
21 **MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR PERKINS**

22
23 ON THE QUESTION

24
25 Commissioner Perry suggested the number of signs not be identified/limited.

26
27 **AMENDED MOTION BY COUNCILOR ALBERT TO ENCUMBER AN AMOUNT UP TO**
28 **THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00) FOR THE CREATION OF TRAILHEAD SIGNAGE**
29 **FOR THE TRAILS LEADING FROM BEHIND THE HIGH SCHOOL, AND TO ENABLE GINA**
30 **ROSATI TO EXPEND THE FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN FUND**
31 **53**
32 **MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR PERKINS**

33
34 *A Vice Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:*

35
36 Yea: Commissioner Rosati, Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Starr,
37 Commissioner Boisvert, Councilor Albert, Vice Chair Perkins

38 7

39 Nay:

0

40 **MOTION CARRIED**

41
42 Commissioner Tenhave questioned the will of the Commission relative to the suggestion made to close all
43 access to the property. Commissioner Swisher spoke of a willingness to investigate the possibility of the
44 property, inclusive of the parking lot, being resident access only. He views that as a means of resolving the
45 volume issues, which in turn would resolve the parking and trash problems. He is uncertain that is
46 possible. Councilor Albert stated his belief it is possible. He questioned the enforcement ability.

47
48 Commissioner Swisher questioned how that is managed at the Town portion of the beach at Baboosic Lake.
49 Commissioner Boisvert indicated there is no Merrimack portion of the Town beach at Baboosic Lake; Four

1 Seasons has a private beach and Amherst has their town beach. Commissioner Tenhave remarked what
2 Merrimack has is fire lanes that lead down to the lake, which are barely visible. Merrimack residents used
3 to be able to pay a fee to utilize the Amherst beach. He is uncertain if that relationship remains.

4
5 Commissioner Swisher commented you could utilize transfer station stickers to easily identify residents. It
6 is something that could be a short-term solution. Re-routing traffic to the high school sounds like the best
7 answer that is in the works as a result of this meeting. The Superintendent seems to be amendable to
8 working with us. He is uncertain of the kind of volume they can support or whether that is a long-term
9 solution as it will really only work when school is not in session. He had hoped the outcome of this
10 meeting would be something the neighborhood could be a little more hopeful about for the near term.

11
12 Commissioner Tenhave questioned if a legal opinion could be sought and what the process would look like.
13 Councilor Albert stated that could occur, and indicated he would email the Town Manager and request a
14 legal opinion be sought.

15
16 Commissioner Tenhave spoke of the Town Loop and the need to see that get implemented before further
17 action can occur. Coming in from Watson Park will require crossing property owned by the State. In
18 previous attempts to speak to the State about utilizing their property to access Commission property, their
19 response has been that they have not put up signage or discouraged anyone. However, they did not wish to
20 get into a firm agreement. The Commission can always address it again once it is known funding is in
21 place and construction will begin.

22
23 There being no further recommendations, Commissioner Tenhave suggested the item be placed on the
24 agenda for the Commission's next meeting, and that a request be made that the Commission return to a
25 regular meeting schedule.

26
27 Vice Chair Perkins indicated he would speak with the Community Development Department the following
28 day to discuss scheduling of meetings whether in person or virtual.

29
30 **ADJOURNMENT**

31
32 **MOTION BY VICE CHAIR PERKINS TO ADJOURN**
33 **MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PERRY**

34
35 *A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:*

36
37 Yea: Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Rosati, Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Boisvert,
38 Councilor Albert, Commissioner Starr, Vice Chair Perkins

39 7

40 Nay:

0

41 **MOTION CARRIED**

42
43 The May 19, 2020 Special meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 9:36
44 p.m.

45
46
47
48 Submitted by Dawn MacMillan
49

1 From: [smarone](#)
2 Sent: Monday, May 04, 2020 1:43 PM
3 To: Tom Koenig
4 Cc: Bill Boyd; Lon Woods; Nancy Harrington; Finlay Rothhaus; Barbara Healey; Pete Albert; Eileen
5 Cabanel
6 Subject: Wildcat Falls Safety Concerns
7

8 Good Afternoon,
9

10 I am writing to you in hopes for a solution to our current problem with our neighborhood traffic and high
11 volume of people in and out of the conservation area.
12

13 We live on Currier Rd. in near Wildcat Falls and over this past weekend, especially Sunday, our quiet
14 neighborhood had a steady flow of traffic, many traveling at high speeds and disregard for the safety of
15 others. We spent our entire day watching the influx of out of state cars flooding the streets looking for a
16 place to park since the parking lot for Wildcat Falls was at capacity by 9:00 AM. The cars are lining the
17 streets making it impossible for emergency vehicles to get through if they had to.
18

19 I have lived here for 4 years and have never seen the Wildcat Falls area so heavily trafficked. People are
20 littering, graffiti has been spotted, and people are having fire pits which is strictly prohibited, and I fear will
21 start a brush fire, creating a situation where firetrucks wouldn't be able to access since the roads are blocked
22 with so many vehicles.
23

24 We moved to this neighborhood because we fell in love with the safety of the area and we do not
25 understand why anything can't be done during this COVID-19 situation. It seems to me that social
26 distancing is being ignored and almost encouraged by allowing this situation to occur without any rules.
27 Why can't this area only be allowed for Merrimack residents and only have a walk in access? At one point
28 yesterday, I counted 25 Massachusetts license plates parked on the street. This was not including the
29 parking lot.
30

31 This is unacceptable and should not be allowed. We are being put at risk in our own neighborhood. There
32 are people in our neighborhood that are high risk that can't even enjoy being in their own yard during the
33 good weather because of all these crowds. And our children who are cooped up in the house can not ride
34 their bikes or take a walk safely anymore. This is something I always felt safe letting them do before this
35 crisis. And it is due to the amount of traffic and the speed at which these vehicles are traveling.
36

37 I am saddened by this whole situation. I understand that people need to get outside especially during these
38 difficult times, but we should not be put at risk and our rights should not be infringed upon because their
39 are no limitations put in place for this conservation area.
40

41 I fear for the footprint this will leave on the conservation area with all the pollution and disrespect from the
42 people using this land.
43

44 Please help us bring safety back to our peaceful neighborhood during these troubling times.
45

46 Thank you for your time and consideration...I know you are working tirelessly to keep us all safe and it is
47 much appreciated!
48

49 Sincerely,

1 Susan Marone
2 29 Currier Road

3
4
5
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7
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12

13 From: Brenna Hansen
14 Sent: Monday, May 04, 2020 12:15 PM
15 To: Tom Koenig; Bill Boyd; Lon Woods; Nancy Harrington; Finlay Rothhaus; Barbara Healey; Pete
16 Albert; Eileen Cabanel
17 Subject: Speed and Traffic Issue on Currier Road

18

19 We've lived on Currier Road for thirteen years and have seen both the volume and the speed of traffic on
20 the road increase drastically, especially in recent months. I'm concerned any time my children walk their
21 dog or ride bikes as many of the vehicles go too fast and don't leave ample space for pedestrians. I've had to
22 restrict their ability to walk or ride so that they can only do so with an adult, which is sad as they are at the
23 age where they should be able to safely gain some independence in our neighborhood (part of the reason we
24 bought here!).

25

26 We have also noticed an increase in trash tossed in our front yard as well as throughout Wildcat Falls.
27 Unfortunately, that area where we used to enjoy hiking has become far too crowded to enjoy, with people
28 and cars overflowing in to the street. There is no possible way to hike or walk safely at Wildcat currently as
29 the number of people makes it impossible to keep a six foot distance. Last night (Sunday, 5/3) at 7pm we
30 entered the lot thinking it may be late enough to take a short walk however the lot was so full of people,
31 none of whom were abiding by social distancing, that we had to turn back as there was no passage to the
32 trails since people were blocking the entire lot.

33

34 As a long-term citizen of Merrimack and someone who has worked within the community through Parks &
35 Rec and scouting, I have no doubt Merrimack can pull together to find a solution to this issue. We'd love to
36 see the town do something to curb speeding and keep the traffic - both foot and vehicle - to a reasonable
37 level.

38

39 --

40 Brenna Hansen
41 3 Currier Road
42 Merrimack, NH 03054

43

44

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49

1 From: [Grace](#)
2 Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2020 5:03 PM
3 To: Gina Rosati
4 Subject: Public Comment

5
6 From: Grace Wilson, 35 Currier Road, the last house that abuts the entrance to the falls.

7
8 My mom and I live in the house on the corner right next to the entrance to the parking lot at the falls,. My
9 mom has lived here for 55 years and I have lived here 50 years. We have never had any issues living on the
10 land adjacent to the falls until the town purchased it, put the parking lot in and publicized its location.

11
12 We and the neighbors fought against the lot going in but were not listened too. Our concerns of more
13 traffic, partying, drugs, drinking and vandalism has come to pass and has made our neighborhood unsafe
14 and has brought us to this moment.

15
16 We didnt realize the town was going to publicize the parks whereabouts in travel magazines and the LL
17 Bean Catalog and utube. We would have fought against that as well,and we could have told the town it was
18 not in the best interests of the town or neighborhood or the park to do this.

19
20 It has created a mess and has become disruptive to our way of life. We have counted over 150 cars on the
21 recent Saturdays and Sundays. Cars, people animals all day long.
22 We even had a tour bus from Canada drop over 75 people off last year and the bus idled for over an hour
23 before it finally moved. The neighborhood called the police and we were tols, "it's a nice day and a holiday,
24 don't worry about it". That was the end to our neighborhood safety and homey feel.

25
26 Addition to the heavy traffic, cars are blocking our driveways and mailboxes, and the only fire hydrant,
27 people are throwing trash and allowing their pets to deficate on our lawns. The street is so crowded with
28 cars that people and their dogs are walking on all the lawns to get to the entrance to the falls trespassing on
29 our property. They hang out on our lawns playing loud music and talking loudly and just being rude to the
30 people who live in the homes. We even had sunbathers on our lawn with their car stereo playing and them
31 laying on our lawn in swimsuits, they didnt care they were trespassing.

32
33 The cars are parked one on top of the other in front of our homes, a lot of us have sprinkler systems and the
34 tops get broken off due to being driven over when cars park on our lawns and each time there is a cost to us
35 to repair our sprinkler systems.

36
37 The increased traffic has taken away our safe neighborhood so children can no longer ride bikes or play or
38 walk their dogs. People can not walk down the street due to the amount of cars and the speeds they are
39 traveling at. Our posted 20 mile an hour speed limit sign went missing.

40
41 Cars attempting 2 way traffic when cars are parked in front on one side of the street creates gridlock. Cars
42 are parked on the right hand side often blocking the fire hydrant, creates dangerous conditions for
43 emergency vehicles to get down the street, park and stage rescue and recovery. They normally park in front
44 of our house and this wont happen if the cars are allowed to continue to park at the lower circle of Currier
45 Road. Cars will have to be towed and precious time would be lost for a rescue or putting out a fire.

46
47 The town has another access point to Wildcat falls near Merrimack High School, and there is ample
48 parking at the other entrance. The repairs to the footbridge should be a top priority and the Currier Road
49 access should be used for local and foot traffic only. There is no reason why the Currier Road

1 Neighborhood families lives should be disrupted with another access point available to the town and
2 visitors.

3
4 While the bridge is being repaired I am asking that no parking signs be placed on the entire lower circle of
5 Currier Road . You have placed them on the left hand side but no one was parking on the left hand side to
6 begin with, they are parking on the right hand side. We need the right side around the lower circle no
7 parking as well.

8
9 My personal story ties into what is going on with the amount of traffic and people parking on our lawn and
10 in front of our home on Currier Road.

11
12 I have PTSD, Panic Disorder and Anxiety Disorder along with 2 different brain injuries I recieved in a car
13 accident. What people don't understand about PTSD is it comes on suddenly by being triggered. Mine is
14 triggered by the opening and closing of car doors and trunks slamming, the locking of cars with the beeping
15 and the car alarms going off. My brain injuries make me need a quiet lifestyle without a lot of crowds or
16 activity. It's why I live at home and not in the city. My home on Currier road has always been my safe
17 haven, wildcat falls has always been my place of calm and tranquility, but I dont feel safe anymore.

18
19 My PTSD is triggered and my panic and anxiety attacks are amplified. Add a lot of strangers walking in
20 front of my home and I don't feel safe. I don't feel safe in a home I have lived in for 50 years. The woods
21 that gave me solice now five me fear. I live in a constant state of panic and anxiety to the point where I
22 don't go outside in my front yard very often anymore. My bedroom faces the street, I have had move my
23 bed is as far from the windows as possible, I dont open my windows or my shades anymore because
24 everytime I look out I see strangers out front and it sets off my conditions. I shouldn't have to live like this.
25 I shouldn't be afraid in my own home or out in my yard, in my neighborhood or down the trails I
26 know like a second skin. My whole way of life has been affected by the amount of cars and strangers in
27 front of my home.

28
29 Having no parking on the lower circle, especially in front of our home, would help on so many levels. It
30 would allow our children to ride their bikes, play and walk their dogs. It would allow traffic flow easier to
31 and from the lot It would allow emergency vehicles a place to stage and rescue. And Lastly it would
32 personally assist me and calm my PTSD episodes, my anxiety disorder and panic attacks so I could
33 function more normally on a daily basis. I would feel safer in my home and outside in my yard. Our
34 neighbors should be able to have their children play and ride their bikes, dogs should be walked without the
35 fear of being hit by people speeding down the road. This is an older neighborhood. Most of us have lived
36 here over 40 years. Help us re establish the safety of our neighborhood and open the access point near the
37 highschool. Close parking on Currier Road for people heading to the falls. Thank you

38 Grace Fairbairn Wilson

39
40 Grace Wilsom
41 35 Currier Road

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1 From: PAUL LABRIE
2 Sent: Saturday, May 09, 2020 7:27 AM
3 To: ConservationCommission
4 Subject: Input for scheduled May 19'th Meeting

5
6 Conservation Commission,

7
8 My understanding is that the May 19'th meeting is to address the Wildcat Falls parking issues as directed
9 by the Town Council so I'm not sure other agenda items can be added, or as of today if it's too late to
10 propose them. I believe my proposal below would directly benefit not only Wildcat Falls but all town
11 Conservation properties. If not possible to be taken up as an agenda item I'd like it read and/or recorded for
12 public record as I am not sure I will be available to call in to do so myself. My comment below;

13
14 "In a number of communities with high tourist season influxes of visitors, the town provides for "street
15 residents only" parking and stickers for the residents who live on the street.

16
17 Why can't similar "Street Residents Parking Only" be done on the streets abutting the Conservation area's
18 designated parking areas such as those at Wildcat Falls and Horse Hill? This should also be done in
19 conjunction with designating specific spots or areas for parking at other trailheads such as Beebe Lane or
20 Conservation Drive abutting Grater Woods where there is only on street parking available.

21
22 The town should be able to mine data through the state vehicle registration database and send stickers for
23 the resident's registered vehicles. If not then the Town Clerk could give out stickers to the home/vehicle
24 owners when requested in person or when a vehicle is registered that will allow them to street park in
25 designated "Street Residents Only" areas. This will give the Police Department the ability to differentiate
26 and ticket those not following the "street residents only" rule.

27
28 This will not only limit the number of visitors to the conservation areas which will help enforce social
29 distancing, but will aid in limiting the growing trail and parking area garbage and other rule infractions on
30 the trails and will also lower the parking congestion and traffic on the streets abutting the trailheads."

31
32 Thank You,

33
34 Paul Labrie
35 30 Beebe Lane
36 Merrimack NH
37
38
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1 From: Amy Simoneau
2 Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 7:55 AM
3 To: ConservationCommission
4 Cc: Amy Simoneau
5 Subject: 5.19.2020 Public Comment
6

7 To all members of Merrimack Conservation Commission:
8

9 Please accept this email as a public comment to your May 19th, 2020 meeting regarding parking at Wildcat
10 Falls. THIS<<https://youtu.be/Im41OuANoX8>> video link shows the Currier Road neighborhood concerns.
11 I created the video with the support and input from the Currier Road community. Please share publicly via
12 "screen share" during the virtual meeting.
13

14 Visualize for a second... yourself in your neighborhood standing out on your front lawn during a warm,
15 sunny weekend day. You'd be lucky to see one or two cars in a 10 minute time span and most likely it's
16 one of your neighbors passing through or someone heading to the WFCAs parking lot. You smile and watch
17 your kids laugh and play outside in the front yard and ride their bikes. Once in awhile you think about the
18 calls you've made in the past to authorities regarding traffic issues to WFCAs or when cars were still parked
19 in the parking lot after sunset. You had stopped calling the town members after awhile because you felt
20 your calls were ignored and nothing changed regarding the situations.
21

22 In 2011 the WFCAs parking lot was expanded which was not what was planned and promised for your
23 neighborhood. You had many concerns about the expansion, yet your voice seemed ignored once again. A
24 heritage sign was put up on Baboosic Lake Road and social media has made Wildcat Falls, what use to be
25 called 80 Acres, another public "waterfall" to visit. Traffic issues increased in the neighborhood and litter
26 on the trails and parking lot became a new problem.
27

28 Now, visualize at least one car per minute speeding pass your house and only slowing down to find room to
29 park next to your mailbox and crowd you in your own driveway. Cars are overflowing the side streets,
30 intersections and emergency vehicles are restricted from getting to and from Wildcat Falls parking lot
31 safely. Your children would like to go outside and play, but now you can't let them. A beautiful, sunny
32 weekend has become too dangerous for your kids. There is too much traffic. Strange people are now
33 walking on your front yard and dog excrement is left behind for you to pick up. You've been in this
34 neighborhood for over 12 years. You've called, written to several town members, yet the issues you've
35 seen over the years never went away. Now with the pandemic you raise your concerns again, only to feel
36 you are wasting your time because it didn't make a difference years ago. So you stop calling, writing, and
37 stay indoors when the weather brings more people to your neighborhood development. The traffic
38 overflow and parking situation at WFCAs continues.
39

40 This is a systemic problem induced by the pandemic.
41

42 How would you address the problem in your neighborhood? What would you like to see in your
43 neighborhood to control the situation and make sure your neighborhood is safe again?
44

45 I, along with other residents, are thankful and pleased to see police patrolling the overcrowded
46 neighborhood. The temporary no parking signs were installed in the Currier Road neighborhood to provide
47 emergency vehicle access to and from WFCAs. The only thing missing is enforcing the no parking zone.
48 Cars are parking in a no parking area. So the problem continues. Nothing has changed regarding the
49 parking lot overflow (See photos below).

1
2 Do NOT consider expanding the parking lot. We have already done that and it has only created more
3 issues. Expanding the parking lot will bring more traffic, more people, more trash, not protect the
4 wetlands, and increase the town costs to maintain the town property and parking lot. I would like to better
5 understand MCC's GOALS<<https://www.merrimacknh.gov/conservation-commission>> on protecting
6 WFCFA.
7

8 Solution:

- 9 1. Restricting parking and enforcing tickets in a no parking area would be a good start.
10 2. Consider Merrimack residents only parking in WFCFA. Can we do something similar to what we have
11 done for Wasserman park? Something needs to be done to reduce (not promote) the amount of traffic in
12 the area.
13

14 Let's find a way we can all come together and allow people to enjoy and respect the town property and
15 keep the neighborhood safe.
16

17 Sincerely,
18
19
20

21 Amy Simoneau
22 6 Fir Street
23 Merrimack, NH 03054
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1 From: Paul Marone
2 Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 10:05 PM
3 To: MerrimackOutdoors
4 Subject: Wildcat Falls Meeting

5
6 To Whom it may concern,

7
8 I am writing to you in response to presentation and upcoming meeting involving Wildcat Falls. My wife
9 Susan, our three young children, and myself have been living at 29 Currier Road (just a few houses up from
10 the Wildcat Falls Entrance) now for over 4 years now. We made the decision to bring our family up in
11 Merrimack after much consideration. We specifically chose this beautiful, once quiet, dead end
12 neighborhood so our children could play outside with the neighborhood kids in a relatively safe
13 environment. We have been so happy here and really want nothing more than to remain here as a positive
14 and cooperative member of the community. So much so, we are willing to participate and help in any
15 means we can to maintain or improve this friendly environment.

16
17 Unfortunately, over the last few years the traffic, parking, and influx of people to our neighborhood for the
18 use of Wildcat Falls has been consistently growing each year. Last year was getting noticeably worse and
19 now this year it has become completely overrun on a sunny weekend day and even some weekdays. We
20 absolutely love Wildcat Falls and have spent many hours out there as a family in the past. Sadly, now we
21 won't even think of going out there most of the time because there are so many people, not to mention the
22 trash, and blatant disrespect for the property. On some days we don't even feel comfortable in our own
23 driveway because it feels like we live next to the entrance to an amusement park.

24
25 Over the past months I have had the opportunity to speak with almost every single resident in this
26 neighborhood and I have yet to meet with one that feels any different than we do about the current
27 situation. So, in an effort to keep this letter on point and not overwhelming I am listing in bullet point form
28 below the issue that we as a neighborhood would like to address.

- 29
- 30 • There is an extremely high volume of traffic for a dead-end neighborhood. We have security footage
31 of hundreds of cars coming past our house in just a few hours. At some points, more than one car
32 every 30 seconds or less for hours at a time.
 - 33
 - 34 • Excessive speeds (because they don't live here so they don't care)
 - 35
 - 36 • Parking on our lawns, in front of driveways, mailboxes, and both sides of the street. (photos can be
37 furnished upon request)
 - 38
 - 39 • Streets get so blocked that Emergency vehicles can not get in the neighborhood sometimes let alone
40 the parking lot. (photos can be furnished upon request).
 - 41
 - 42 • Often there are more out of state vehicles in the neighborhood than those that actually live here. This
43 past Saturday just after 3:00 pm There were 37 vehicles parked on the street from neighboring states.
 - 44
 - 45 • Trees being cut up for firewood.
 - 46
 - 47 • Fire pits are popping up on the trails.
 - 48
 - 49 • Hammocks tied in trees.

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- Loud music and parties being held at the falls.
- Graffiti on the rocks.
- There is so much litter it there now most of the neighborhood is giving up on cleaning up after doing so for so long.
- Recently disposed of dirty needles and empty alcohol bottles.

I have reviewed the presentation and options being presented. Here are my thoughts which are echoed by most of the neighborhood. Ultimately, we believe the best option to resolve the majority of the above problems while still keeping Wildcat Falls available to the public is to make the on-street parking available to residence only so that once the lot is full the neighborhood will not be overrun.

1. Near term options 1 to 6 months: We believe due to the Covid 19 issues and the fact that everything else is closed up, everyone is coming here. We are requesting an immediate but temporary shutdown of the Currier Rd parking lot and entrance. Until we can come up with a solution
2. 6 to 12 months: Extending the parking lot is the worst possible solution as it will only encourage more traffic. The biggest problem is the massive amounts of traffic coming into the neighborhood of people that don't live here. It's a dead-end neighborhood with mall entrance like traffic. Removing the sign at the end of Currier Rd will also be helpful.
3. 1 year out: We believe that the Watson Park entrance and or the High school entrance is a workable option.

We look forward to hearing more about what can be done to help us with these concerns. Most of all we ask, Please, help us get our safe neighborhood back that we have all come to love. We love having Wildcat Falls for all of us to use but not at the expense of those that live here. We have lost our sense of safety and security. We believe that the lot and entrance we set up with the best of intentions and its very unfortunate that it seems to be overgrown for this residential neighborhood as it stands.

Sincerely,
Paul Marone
29 Currier Road

1 From: Brenna Hansen
2 Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:38 PM
3 To: ConservationCommission
4 Subject: Public Comment in regards to Parking at Wildcat Falls and Traffic Issue on Currier Road
5

6 I've lived on Currier Road for thirteen years and have seen both the volume and the speed of traffic on the
7 road increase drastically, especially in recent months.
8

9 I'm concerned any time my children walk their dog or ride bikes as many of the vehicles go too fast and
10 don't leave ample space for pedestrians. I've had to restrict their ability to walk or ride so that they can only
11 do so with an adult, which is sad as they are at the age where they should be able to safely gain some
12 independence in our neighborhood (part of the reason we bought here!).
13

14 We have also noticed an increase in trash tossed in our front yard as well as throughout Wildcat Falls.
15 Unfortunately, that area where we used to enjoy hiking has become far too crowded to enjoy, with people
16 and cars overflowing in to the street.
17

18 In relationship to the current health issue going on, the behavior I have seen first hand at Wildcat Falls does
19 not coincide with what's being asked of NH citizens. People are crowding the parking lot and trails in large
20 groups with less than 6 feet of space and many are not wearing masks.
21

22 There is no possible way to hike or walk safely at Wildcat currently as the number of people makes it
23 impossible to keep a six foot distance. On Sunday, May 3rd at 7pm we entered the lot thinking it may be
24 late enough to take a short walk before sunset. However the lot was so packed full of people, none of whom
25 were abiding by social distancing, that we had to turn back as there was no six foot gap offering safe
26 passage to the trails.
27

28 Having the trails open to Merrimack residents ONLY at this time would seem like a simple short-term
29 solution to solve the health-related aspect of the issue at hand.
30

31 We'd love to see the town do something long-term to curb speeding and keep the traffic to a reasonable
32 level.
33

34 I look forward to finding out what the parties involved have planned to address these concerns from the
35 many Merrimack residents who love their town, love their neighborhood and love their families.
36

37 Thank you!

38 --

39 Brenna Hansen
40 3 Currier Road
41 Merrimack, NH 03054
42
43
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49

1 From: Gerry St. Amand
2 Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 3:56 PM
3 To: ConservationCommission
4 Cc: Gerard St. Amand
5 Subject: Parking at Wildcat Falls--Public Comment
6

7 My Name and address: Gerard (Gerry) St. Amand, 31 Currier Road, Merrimack, resident for 38 years.
8

9 Dear Members of the Merrimack Conservation Commission:
10

11 Below I have listed some of my concerns specific to the increased traffic and parking at or near the Wildcat
12 Falls Town Conservation area. Thanks for taking the time to consider my input.
13

14 Topic: Parking Issues and Concerns at Wildcat Falls
15

16 #1.) Safety-The increased vehicular traffic accessing Wildcat Falls presents several safety issues to visitors
17 to Wildcat Falls, to nearby residents in the Currier Road area, and to emergency and rescue vehicles and
18 personnel. Parking, particularly on weekends, regularly overflows onto Currier Road, Hemlock Drive, and
19 Fir Street. Access to our driveways can be difficult, children and families must be hyper vigilant about
20 playing in and using their front yards, and the speed at which some vehicles travel up and down Currier
21 Road exceeds reasonable expectations for driving safely in a residential neighborhood.
22

23 #2.) Wildlife Safety: The volume of trash being disposed of in the Wildcat Falls area presents particular
24 concern to the many species of wildlife that inhabit the woods and water. The retention pond near the
25 parking lot is covered with plastic drink containers, plastic waste products, and bags filled with dog
26 droppings. Many turtles, frogs, toads, and birds live in or near the retention pond and all of the trash
27 presents potential hazards to all of the wildlife. Many regular visitors and abutters to the Wildcat Falls area
28 collect and dispose of trash that has accumulated along the trails, near the river, and in the woods. The
29 volume of trash has definitely increased along with the increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
30

31 #3) Usage after dark-Night Safety: Vehicles access the park after hours throughout the year. When vehicles
32 leave at night their headlights shine directly into our family room, so we know when vehicles are leaving.
33 Empty containers of beer and alcoholic beverages, along with waste products from drug use and sexual
34 activity have been left behind in the park. This is not a daily occurrence, but should not be happening at all.
35

36 Wildcat Falls provides a wonderful outside venue for individuals to walk, hike, and observe wildlife. Those
37 of us who live in the neighborhood view it as a hidden gem and treasure. During the COVID-19 pandemic
38 the Wildcat Falls areas provides a wonderful location for people to get outside and enjoy nature. Children
39 and adults benefit from having Wildcat Falls available and accessible. Visitors to the area must act
40 responsibly while in the recreations area, as well as during their access to and from the neighborhood.
41



TOWN OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2020

Location: Police Department-Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Police Chief Denise Roy, Public Works Director Kyle Fox, Deputy Police Chief Brian Levesque, Town Councilor Finlay Rothhaus, Community Development Director Tim Thompson, Public Works Deputy Director/Town Engineer Dawn Tuomala, Tom Touseau, Merrimack School District, Resident Glenn Wallace, Esquire, Resident Bob L'Heureux, and Resident Fran L'Heureux.

Members Absent: Interim Fire Chief Matthew Duke and Resident Dan Bantham.

Guest/s: None

Moderator: Chief Roy

Recording Secretary: Kerry Tarleton

1. **Call to Order:** Chief Roy called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the December 9, 2019, meeting were approved unanimously by the committee.
4. **Comments from the Press or Public:** None
5. **Old Business:**

- Issues of Hadley Road (parking along roadway) and Church Street (closing bottom of street) have not yet been brought before the Town Council due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related issues. Chief Roy advised that it is intended to discuss the Church Street issue with residents of that road and bring both issues before the Council over the summer. Dawn Tuomala advised that she has submitted to the Council for a public hearing on the Hadley Road issue. Kyle Fox further advised that a public information meeting was held several years earlier with the Church Street residents and, at that time, the Council elected not to close the road until the anticipated sidewalk project. He will look into his notes on the issue from that meeting.

6. **New Business:**

- Parking issues related to Wildcat Falls and surrounding neighborhoods, specifically the end of Currier Road and adjacent roadways. The Conservation Committee conducted a meeting on the issue the previous week. Chief Roy gave a brief synopsis of the issue: Ever since the State



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has closed everything due to the pandemic, including parks and beaches, during the nice weather there is increased traffic which causes parking along the roadways as the parking lot is small and only holds approximately 15-20 vehicles. Parking in that area is legal. However, at the direction of the Town Council and Town Manager, in order to attempt to alleviate some of the neighborhood parking issues, no parking signs were erected in various areas throughout that neighborhood. Those signs are not enforceable, and neighborhood complaints continued. Chief Roy further advised that she believes a parking lot expansion would rectify most of the ongoing issues in the area. Despite reports that it's mayhem in that area, the police have not found it to be when patrolling and/or responding to calls for service in that area. The parking is the biggest issue. Chief Roy also spoke about the resident complaints of speeding in the area, but the SpeedSpy results indicate that 85% of the vehicles were at or below the speed limit and, although there were some vehicles driving too fast, unfortunately, you'll get that on any of the roads in town. The SpeedSpy numbers indicate that speeding isn't as much a factor in that area as may be perceived by others. Concerns for potential safety issues related to fire and rescue equipment being able to travel those roads with cars parked along the roadways, as well as the issue of litter in the area was discussed by the Committee. An inquiry as to whether or not there are plans to expand the parking lot was addressed by Kyle Fox. He advised that there weren't any plans at the moment and that would depend upon the direction the Town Council gives on that subject. Further, the Conservation Committee addressed that issue at its recent meeting, but it was believed that they were divided on the issue of expanding the parking lot and were unable to come to a consensus as to how to proceed. Deputy Chief Levesque further addressed the concerns of enforcing parking restrictions in that area and the potential for subsequent requests to restrict parking in other neighborhoods in town. He further expressed his agreement with the Chief's position that no definitive action be taken until such time as the pandemic concludes and traffic in the Wildcat Falls area potentially returns to previous levels. The issue of expanded parking at Horse Hill Nature Preserve having remedied previous parking issues in that area was discussed, as was the effect expanded parking may have on the Wildcat Falls area. The Conservation Committee's mention at its meeting of another possible entrance to the Wildcat Falls area through the school property is a separate issue to be addressed with the school district. There are already other ways to access this property, but the majority of people appear to be presently using the Currier Road access point. Chief Roy suggested letting the traffic and parking issues play out as they may subside once other parks and outside areas are reopened. The temporary no parking signs on one side of the road seem to be helping to widen the area by Currier Road and Hemlock Drive to ensure emergency vehicles are able to have access if needed. The issue of permanent no parking signs along the left corner was also discussed. *It was decided that the Committee would recommend to the Town Council that traffic counts in the area of Currier Road/Wildcat Falls be conducted to*



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determine how many cars park along the roads and in the parking lot and an appropriately sized parking lot be designed by Department of Public Works (including surveying and wetland delineations) to accommodate the number of vehicles utilizing the lot and the roadways so as to alleviate the parking issues in the neighborhood. The motion was made by Bob L'Heureux and seconded by Tim Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

- Discussion continued as to erecting no parking signs along the roadway from the corner of Currier Road along the left side of Hemlock Drive. The Committee was able to view a photo of the area provided by Kyle Fox. See Attachment 1. It was decided to table the issue until the police department and fire department have had an opportunity to meet to discuss the issue.

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

Currier Lane/Hemlock Drive



May 27, 2020



Sources: Esri, HERE



TOWN OF MERRIMACK

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

116 NATICOOK ROAD

Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054

Telephone (603) 882-1046

FAX (603) 883-5335

MCASPARIUS@MERRIMACKNH.GOV

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MEMO

TO: Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager

FROM: Matt Casparius, Director of Parks & Recreation

DATE: June 18, 2020

SUBJECT: New Community Special Event Featuring Fireworks

The Merrimack Rotary Club had expressed an interest in working with the Town to develop a new Fall Special Event to replace the cancelled 4th of July Celebration. Yesterday, I met with the Merrimack Rotary Club to discuss the Town Council's charge and consider some possible options. I have come up with 3 possible options for the Town Council to consider:

Option 1: The Merrimack Rotary Club has postponed their June Ribfest Event to the weekend of October 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The easiest solution would be to arrange for fireworks to be held at Budweiser during the Ribfest event. Ribfest is going to be limited in size this year as they will not be providing shuttle buses to the event and so parking would be limited to what's available at Budweiser and across the street at Elbit Systems. The challenge with this option is going to be parking. We would need the permission from the Merrimack Premium Outlets to direct residents to park up there as the primary viewing spot for the fireworks but even then I can envision parking being an issue. If we can sort out the parking logistics, this would be the easiest option to implement. The concern I have with this option is that we would be essentially providing fireworks for a private non-profit event and whether that would be an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars even though the taxpayers would be able to see the show.

Option 2: We can create a new fall festival to be held on either September 19th or October 17th. The Merrimack Rotary Club has said they will provide volunteers to help out with such an event, but the planning and logistics of the event would fall solely on Parks & Recreation. The Rotary Club said they could provide volunteers as long as we avoided Ribfest weekend along with the weekend before and after their event. I am ok with planning such an event and it would probably look similar in nature to the "Merrimack Rocks" event that used to be held in Town. We would most likely look at a venue other than Watson Park due to parking constraints at that exist at Watson Park and the guidelines for use of buses.

The concern I have with a September or October event is that we don't really know what is going to happen with COVID-19 in the next couple of months. We may start putting this in motion and have to then cancel due to a second spike and the need to lock things down again. Right now, September seems early to me to create a new major event for the public to attend with the unknown COVID-19 questions. In October, one of the challenges we also have is that we typically hold the Annual Halloween Party at Wasserman Park at the end of the month. This is usually held on a Friday night; but if we are still faced with social distancing restrictions; we would have to hold the event entirely outside. In order to do that, we would need to move the event to a Saturday (either October 24th or October 31st) and hold it during the daytime hours. The challenge with that is it would have us producing two major community events within a span of a couple of weeks.

Option 3: I had a conversation with Anita Creager at the Merrimack Historical Society. It turns out that the Town of Merrimack is celebrating a milestone birthday next spring. According to her, April 2, 1746 is the date commemorated as the Town of Merrimack's first charter. April 2, 2021 would mark the 275th Anniversary of the Town of Merrimack. To me; this would be an ideal option for a community celebration to include fireworks. April 2, 2021 is a Friday, but we could possibly look at making it a weekend long celebration event with activities going on throughout the weekend and fireworks held on Friday Night. We could even have multiple events going on in multiple locations throughout the Town. The one potential area of concern I can see is that Sunday, April 4th is Easter Sunday, and so I don't know if that would be a concern to some people.

Given the uncertainty with COVID-19 at this time, option 3 makes the most sense to me, but if the Council desires; we could plan both a Fall Festival and a 275th Anniversary Celebration if they would like us to. I would ask that the Town Council give us some clarification as to which direction they would like us to go in.

Thank You