



PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

Applicant: Friends of Leary Field

Submission Date: 11/14/05 TOWN OF ACTON PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email

Purpose: (Please select all that apply)

P.O. Box 962
Acton, MA 01720
Bill Mullin, 978-263-5972
william.mullin@thorndikedevelopment.com

- Open Space
- Community Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation

Town Committee (if applicable):

Project Name: The Woodland Path to Leary Field

Project Location/Address: ABRHS Central Campus

Amount Requested: \$ \$25,000

Project Summary: The project is to create a new pedestrian, wooded, handicapped usable, pathway from the upper parking lot of the Acton-Boxborough Regional HS campus to the visitors side of the new Leary Field. The path is called "the Woodland Path", as a way of describing the look and feel of the project and to distinguish it from other potential landscaping improvements at Leary Field

The Woodland Path was included in the scope of work and approved by the CPC in the Leary Field project completed earlier this year. This portion of the work was deleted as other costs of the project came in higher than budgeted.

The basic elements of the Proposal are as follows.

- As quoted from last year's proposal: "Create a new walkway from the upper High School Parking lot to a new entryway, providing a connection to the North side of the field."
- Plan, design and construct the new pedestrian path taking advantage of the natural beauty and terrain through the woods near Leary Field.
- Construct the path with a sturdy surface that is handicapped useable by wheelchairs as well as pedestrians.
- Make use of the existing parking infrastructure, alleviating vehicular traffic and pedestrian congestion at major events at Leary Field.
- Total Project Cost, including design, engineering and construction is estimated to be \$25,000. The Friends of Leary Field has already arranged for the preliminary landscape architecture and engineering of the Woodland Path. It is possible, but not certain that additional in-kind donations from landscape contractors, surveyor/engineer and landscape architect will reduce the CPC funds required for this project.

Estimated Date for Commencement of Project:

Landscape design and site survey will be funded by the Friends of Leary Field so as to be maximally prepared for construction in the Spring of 2006. Construction will begin immediately upon approval at Spring Town Meeting.

Estimated Date for Completion of Project:

May, 2005

SECTION I. NARRATIVE

1.1 Project Overview: The Woodland Path at Leary Field

The Friends of Leary Field seek to create a new pedestrian, wooded, handicapped usable, pathway from the upper parking lot of the Acton-Boxborough Regional HS campus to the visitor side of the new Leary Field.

Through the good graces of the CPC and the citizens of Acton and Boxborough, a new multipurpose recreational facility is operating at Leary Field. The success of this new space has exceeded all of the plans and projections for which users had hoped. Community groups and school groups alike tout the extraordinary flexibility they have gained to carry on their schedules even in the face of inclement weather.

In a short phrase: thank you to the Community Preservation Act funding for playing such an important role in the extraordinary success for our whole community.

It was always contemplated as part of FOLF's original plans to create a new access point to the new recreational space. We were grateful that the CPC approved the Woodland Path in last year's scope of work. However, due to budget limitations, regrettably, the Woodland Path had to be eliminated. This proposal seeks to rectify that situation.

1.2 Property Involved

This project is in the woods on the northwest side of Leary Field, located on the Acton-Boxborough Regional School's main campus. The Woodland Path will connect the upper parking lot to the west of the High School to Leary Field.

1.3 Proposed Use

The new wooded path will provide pedestrian, handicapped usable access to Leary Field.

1.4 Benefit to the Town and citizens of Acton

The Woodland Path will:

- o Allow easier pedestrian access and exit for major events at Leary Field.
- o Allow use of the existing parking infrastructure in a more opportune manner.
- o Allow pedestrian access to Leary Field even when a major event is not occurring.
- o Provide supplemental handicapped access to Leary Field.
- o In a wonderful wooded setting, create a high quality experience for those entering Leary Field. Acton's wonderful terrain and foliage will be the doorway to the new Leary Field.

1.5 Intra-Governmental Agreement

The Acton Boxborough Regional School District and the Town of Acton have executed a Chapter 40, §4A intra-governmental agreement, governing the use of Leary Field. This agreement continues and builds on the long-standing cooperative agreement between the Town and the Regional School District to make Leary field available to any and all community groups.

1.6 Consistency with Community Preservation Plan

The proposed Woodland Path Project is consistent with the Community Preservation Plan. As noted before, the CPC approved this scope of work in last year's proposal.

- o The project is economically feasible and carries the support of FOLF, which has demonstrated their ability to complete projects on time and on plan.
- o The project improves pedestrian traffic and supplements handicapped access.
- o The project abets the use of the new Leary Field. Broad community use has already been demonstrated. FOLF continues to believe that the extraordinary use of the new Leary Field will have a beneficial ripple effect on the demand for and overuse of active recreational playing fields.
- o This project is pre-leveraged by the funding provided for design and engineering by FOLF.
- o This project was approved last year, fitting the criteria of creating a new recreational open space. The use of the path is tied to the new Leary Field which is governed by a Chapter 40 Intra-governmental agreement.
- o Acton Town meeting unanimously approved the new Leary Field through the approval for CPA funding in April 2005.
- o The project will be implemented by ABRSD, who have extraordinary capabilities in implementing construction projects of all scope and size.
- o ABRSD has site control; FOLF represents ABRSD in the CPC process, only.

1.7 Work Plan

Landscape design and site survey will be funded by the Friends of Leary Field so as to be maximally prepared for construction in the Spring of 2006. Construction will begin immediately upon approval at Spring Town Meeting.

SECTION II. SITE CONTROL

The site of this project is northwest of Leary Field, located on the ABRHS campus, and under the control of the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District. ABRSD has designated FOLF to be its representative in presenting this proposal to the CPC.

SECTION III. PROJECT SCOPE

3.1 Construction Details

Extent of Area Involved

The extent of the area involved is the wooded area to the northwest of Leary Field, between the field and upper parking lot to the west of the High School.

Full Scope of the Work to Be Performed

- o Finalize design and engineering
- o Clear, stump and grub trees
- o Grade to be handicapped useable or better; cut and fill as needed
- o Install dense surface (most probably stone dust)
- o Install cobbled border
- o Create granite post entryway

SECTION IV. COST ESTIMATE

Total Project Cost, including design, engineering and construction is estimated to be \$25,000. The Friends of Leary Field has already arranged for the preliminary landscape architecture and engineering of the Woodland Path. It is possible, but not certain that additional in-kind donations from landscape contractors, surveyor/engineer and landscape architect will reduce the CPC funds required for this project.

SECTION V. FEASIBILITY

5.1 Project Funding

The CPA will provide the bulk of the cash funding and FOLF will arrange for in-kind donations or direct cash donations for any upside difference in costs.

5.2 Construction Project Management

Implementation of this project will be under the supervision of the ABRSD Facilities Department. FOLF is representing ABRSD in this application to the CPC, but will have no role in actual project implementation. All project work will be done in accordance with ABRSD's procurement and bid regulations.

Exhibit 1: View from Woodland Path entry point



Path entrance from upper Parking Lot

Fieldhouse entrance (out of photo)

Visitor's side stands, Leary Field

Exhibit 2: View from Woodland Path midpoint



General direction of path

Visitor's side of field

Leary Field concession stand

November 14, 2005

Mr. Matt Lundberg
Community Preservation Committee
c/o Roland Bartl
Acton Town Hall
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Mr. Lundberg:

Mr. William Mullin from the Friends of Leary Field will be representing the various community groups and the regional school district regarding the Leary Field application (Woodland Path), which will be submitted to the Community Preservation Committee.

Mr. J. D. Head from our staff is also available to answer questions or provide additional information that you may need

We appreciate your consideration of our proposal.

Sincerely,

William L. Ryan

William L. Ryan
Superintendent

c: William Mullin
George Frost
J.D. Head