

Submitted by: Leonard Wholey (TMM 11), Jennifer Goldsmith (TMM 11), Cher Duffield (TMM 10), Julie Jette (TMM 16), Wendy Friedman (TMM 5), Anthony Ishak (TMM 1)

To see if the Town will adopt the following Resolution:

WHEREAS Town Meeting is responsible for approving the operating budget of the Golf Enterprise Fund, which fund includes costs associated with the golf course, a practice putting green, driving range, a pro shop and restaurant, as well as with several community events such as movie night on the range, the Harvest Festival, and snow sport recreation; and

WHEREAS 124.6 acres of Putterham Meadows were originally purchased by the town from 1899 to 1901 explicitly for the purpose of providing playgrounds; and

WHEREAS Putterham Meadows was a bird sanctuary for seven years before the opening of the municipal golf course in 1933; and

WHEREAS Putterham Meadows offered a bridle path that was built in 1907 and covered many acres of land; and

WHEREAS the Golf Enterprise Fund began contributing to the Town's revenue pool in 1989, and the Town set an annual fee of \$200,000, which declined over time and was eventually eliminated; and

WHEREAS Brookline's June 2021 Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan Report has a goal of planting 900 trees per year for the next 10 years; and

~~WHEREAS Brookline has identified, through the work of many commissions and task forces, a large number of recreation-based priorities for which there is not adequate space; and~~

~~WHEREAS the use of the golf course was defined at a time when the school population was far smaller (260 Brookline High School seniors in 1929), the number of athletes and actual team sports was far smaller with five sports for boys, three for girls, with only varsity teams. There are now nearly 50 sports with freshman, JV and Varsity levels, and numerous youth sports leagues, through the Recreation department and other organizations; and~~

~~WHEREAS the town is engaged in a debate about the use of artificial turf on athletic fields, with many supporting turf fields because the town lacks a sufficient number of grass playing fields, and at least one vote on turf fields will be taken at this Special Town Meeting; and~~

WHEREAS a multi-use path **using the existing golf cart paths** around the perimeter of Putterham Meadows could improve the connectivity of Brookline's Green Routes Bicycle Network; and

~~WHEREAS many Brookline residents would like an outdoor pool, additional pickleball courts, and multiple outdoor space uses to be considered; and~~

WHEREAS Brookline's two community gardens occupy minimal space and have a long waiting list; and

WHEREAS Brookline does not use pesticides or herbicides on its fields, the Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course does use pesticides and herbicides, and in 2021 approximately 242 gallons of liquid and 1,305 lbs of dry pesticides containing dangerous and environmentally harmful chemicals were used at the golf course; and

WHEREAS, though the Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course is considered by many community members and staff to be the most important and beautiful green space in Town, during the golf season, which is 9.5 to 10 months per year, non-golfers are only allowed access to the property on Monday mornings; and

WHEREAS the 120 acres of the Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course covers 22% of Brookline's 557 acres of open space and 2.7% of all of Brookline; and

WHEREAS Brookline residents accounted for only 8.2% of golf rounds (2,556) at the Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course in FY21 v. 91.8% of rounds played by non-residents (28,619); and

WHEREAS there are 30 other golf courses (9 of which are 9 holes) open to the public within 30 miles of the Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course; and

WHEREAS the Golf Course Landscape Master Plan Design Review Committee is currently creating a site wide plan; and

~~WHEREAS the Preliminary Master Plan has not included the Park and Recreation Commission's original intention of considering a 9-hole course; and~~

WHEREAS the Golf Course Enterprise Fund has a FY21 year-end unreserved fund balance of \$773,829; and

WHEREAS Town Meeting in the 2022 Annual Town Meeting approved a Golf Enterprise Fund budget of \$2,580,460 of which \$475K is from retained earnings to support Master Plan work;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Town Meeting urges the Parks and Recreation Commission to:

(1) Broaden the scope of the Golf Course Landscape Master Plan to consider what other environmentally responsible uses are feasible within the 120 acres, taking into account the community priorities identified in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space 2019 Strategic Master Plan Survey, the top 3 of which were Parks and Playgrounds; Trails & Pathways; and Nature

**Sanctuaries.** The plan should include at least one option with a 9 hole golf course. The plan should include potential uses such as a perimeter path, wetland restoration, Miyawaki forest, tree nursery, community gardens, ~~playing fields, tennis/pickleball courts, a community pool, a fenced-in dog park,~~ and/or other recreational **environmentally responsible and sustainably managed** needs identified and expressed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. **Plans should only consider uses that do not result in a further degradation of the natural peatland that currently exists on the golf course.**

(2) Use a portion of either the \$475K Master Plan funds or the Golf Course Enterprise Fund year-end unreserved fund balance to pay for the updated Plan.

(3) **Avoid the use of PFAS, polyfluorinated chemical treatments/products and any other chemicals known to be harmful to public health, wildlife and/or the environment,**

Or act on anything relative thereto.