

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR



TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Mel Kleckner, Town Administrator

SUBJECT: Possible Restriction of Land at Larz Anderson Park

DATE: November 10, 2015

For the purposes of the 9th elementary school site study, it has been assumed that although subject to a possible challenge, the portion of the Larz Anderson property identified as a possible school site is not burdened by the restrictions imposed under Article 97, which protects land acquired for park and other purposes. Based on that assumption, that portion of land has also been excluded from the Article 97 restriction being proposed under Article 6 of the Fall 2015 Special Town Meeting. Today, I learned that the Town had accepted a federal grant in 1975 in order to make improvements to the Skating Rink at the Park. While a federal grant may not have required state protection under Article 97, it may have required a similar restriction of land. Town records are not readily available to verify the scope of this restriction, so Erin Gallantine requested documentation from the federal government. A federal agency recently located and sent a grant plan that appears to encompass the entire Larz Anderson Park. If this is the case, the portion of land identified for a possible 9th elementary school could be protected from a change in use unless some relief were to be provided by the Secretary of the Interior (usually requiring replacement of equally valued land).

More research needs to be completed in order to verify the scope of the 1975 restriction. This will be commenced immediately. However, I wanted you to be aware of this as soon as possible, especially given the upcoming Town Meeting vote on Article 6.

cc: Sean Lynn-Jones, Chair, Advisory Committee
Susan Wolf Ditkoff, Chair, School Committee
Joseph Connelly, Acting Superintendent of Schools
Joslin Murphy, Town Counsel
Erin Gallantine, Director of Parks and Open Space (DPW)
Alison Steinfeld, Director of Planning and Community Development