

MASCOMA LAKESIDE PARK – THE PROPERTY HAS BEEN PURCHASED!

It is with great pleasure that we report the Town successfully closed on the sale of the Mascoma Lakeside Park property from NH DOT in early-March. This milestone has been made possible by the commitment and dedication of many volunteers comprising the Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee, and of course the residents, businesses, charitable foundations, and other interested parties who have made monetary donations to this project. It is an enormous achievement to be able to acquire this property exclusively with privately raised funds and manage it as a public park in perpetuity.



Now that the sale has been finalized, our focus is squarely on amenities for the park. This past fall we actively solicited public input through a series of meetings with local organizations, town committees, and a well-attended public forum held at the Community Building. The top priority for all stakeholders

is that the natural beauty of the site be preserved and not over-developed. Some improvements are also needed and desired. They include removing and replacing brush and trash trees with native shrubs and trees; creating trails and educational signage to enhance recreational use of the property; constructing rainwater gardens and a new retaining wall to protect the water quality of the lake; installing a children's wading/swimming area; improved parking; installing grill boxes, and; building an open pavilion (which will likely include a fire feature of some sort) that can serve as a gathering place and an educational facility.

As has been previously reported, the Town of Enfield was recently awarded a Northern Borders Regional Commission grant in the amount of roughly \$135,000 to help fund improvements to the park property. This federal grant is a "match" grant, and the total project budget is approximately \$270,000. We have until July, 2019 to raise \$135,000 in matching funds, at which point we will receive whatever portion of the \$135,000 we have matched. Our fundraising tally is approximately \$242,000. This leaves us with approximately \$113,400 of our \$135,000 goal to fund planned improvements once the \$128,600 sale price is deducted. So, we are well on our way to achieving our

\$135,000 goal, but **we still have to raise approximately \$20,000 over the next few months to secure 100% of the federal matching grant.** Your generous support is needed!

An online version of the pledge agreement can be accessed here:

<http://www.enfield.nh.us/sites/enfieldnh/files/uploads/mlppledgeagreement.pdf>

You may enclose a check with your completed pledge agreement, but if you'd rather pay later you may do that. Send in your donation when it's convenient, with the words "Mascoma Lakeside Park" clearly noted in the memo field. Or, you can choose to wait and a member of the Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee will contact you for payment on the date or dates you specify in your pledge. Thank you for your support! This is an incredibly important effort for our community.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Town Manager at 603-632-5026 or raylesworth@enfield.nh.us if you have related questions or interest in lending your support to this important community project.