

MASCOMA LAKESIDE PARK

The Time is NOW

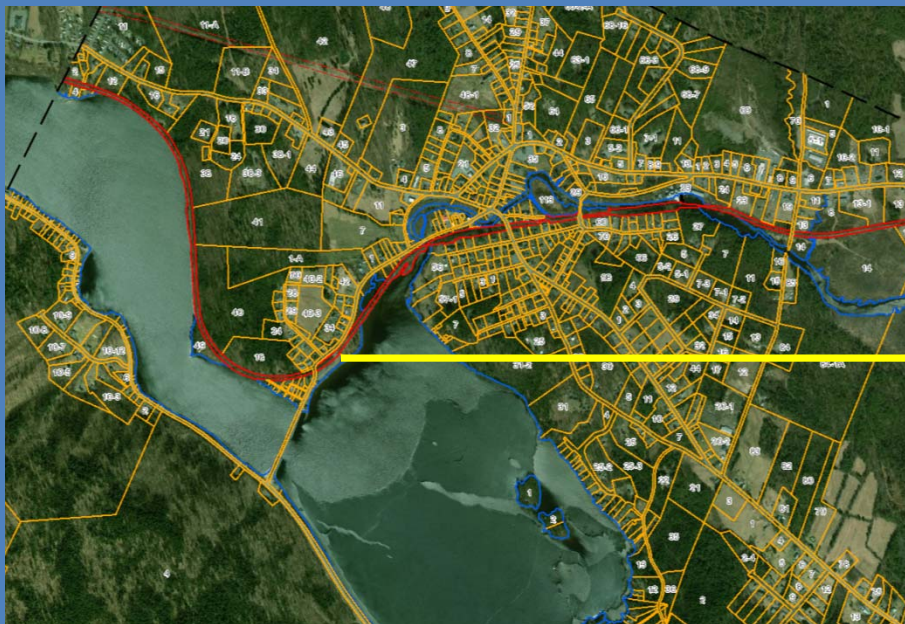


Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee
February/March 2018

Site Overview



- Map 32, Lots 44 & 46
- Parcels currently owned by NH DOT
- > 2.5 acres
- 1,200 feet of shoreline
- Parcels consist of open land adjoining the Rail Trail with access off of Main Street and walking distance to downtown



History (Part 1 of 2)

- NH DOT purchased Lot 46 prior to rebuilding Shaker Bridge, with the intent of straightening the section of Main Street that goes under the underpass. When the state scrapped its plans to take out the underpass, Lot 46 was later to used as a staging ground for heavy equipment and materials during bridge reconstruction
- Following completion of the bridge, the Town entered into an agreement with NH DOT to use Lots 46 & 44 as a public recreation area
- In January 2015, Plan NH conducted a charrette to create a vision of possible uses for the lakefront parcels



Vision for Potential Future Uses/Amenities

- Picnic tables/areas and scenic overlook
- Access to Northern Rail Trail
- Wading area for young children
- Environmental interpretation/education
- Pavilion/shelter for group outings
- Restroom facilities (likely “primitive”)
- Non-motorized boat launch
- Winter activities



History (Part 2 of 2)



- In spring 2015, a taskforce was formed to begin exploring ways potential uses might be realized



- The taskforce, now called the Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee (MLPC), includes representatives from a wide range of governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and private citizens



*Mascoma Lake
Association*



Where we are NOW



- NH DOT has declared the parcels “surplus” and will soon sell them
 - Environmental review and appraisal processes are underway
 - Deed restrictions are being considered
 - Purchase price determined by a legislative committee
- Fundraising campaign for land acquisition and “improvements”
 - Private donations (tax-deductible!) & charitable foundation grants
 - Donations are being deposited into a dedicated Trust Fund
 - The Byrne Foundation has offered a matching challenge of \$75,000
 - If the Town’s efforts to purchase the properties are not successful, all raised funds will be returned to the donating parties
- At the 2018 Town Meeting, voters will be asked to authorize the Town to purchase the property using privately raised funds (*no impact on the tax rate*)
 - Funds in the Land Acquisition CRF will not be used for this project

THANK YOU!



Contact Information:

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FAQs (Part 1 of 3)

- **Q: Why is this property considered unique?**
- *A: This land abuts the Rail Trail and is one of the largest remaining tracts of undeveloped land on Mascoma Lake suitable for recreation purposes. It is also the gateway to historic Enfield Village.*
- **Q: Why now?**
- *A: The two lots have been declared 'surplus' by NH DOT. These properties will be put up for sale in the near future. The Town of Enfield will have the first option to purchase. If the Town does not purchase them, then the land will be sold to a private party and public access will likely come to an end.*
- **Q: Why are private funds being raised to purchase these parcels?**
- *A: Funds are being raised to purchase the two lots so that the Town of Enfield might enjoy improved access to Mascoma Lake for ALL its citizens and the greater Upper Valley region, while at the same time avoiding the need to use tax dollars for acquisition/improvements.*
- **Q: What are the future plans for the park?**
- *A: In the short-term, we envision the park continuing to support the passive recreation uses it has been supporting for the last few years. It will be up to the Enfield voters to decide what kind of additional programs/uses and enhancements, if any, will be pursued.*

FAQs (Part 2 of 3)

- **Q: What costs are involved with maintaining the park?**
- **A:** *The Town has been maintaining the park since it took over management of the area from NH DOT. This has involved mowing grass, plowing the parking area, and sharing one third of the cost of a porta potty in the summer months with the Rail Trail Alliance and Sailing Club. Operating costs of \$4,000 are budgeted in 2018. No significant increase in these costs is anticipated if the Town assumes ownership of the properties, and the Town is actively partnering with local organizations to help defray some of the anticipated operating expenses.*
- **Q: Who can use the park?**
- **A:** *The Mascoma Lakeside Park is enjoyed by hikers, Rail Trail users, anglers, snowmobile enthusiasts, canoeists and kayakers, sailors, picnickers, sunset watchers, wading children, and many others! Town acquisition of the land helps ensure the parcels remain open to the public.*
- **Q: Will tax revenues be reduced if the Town owns the land?**
- **A:** *No. The NH DOT is a tax-exempt entity and does not pay property taxes on the land they own. As such, if the Town takes over ownership of the parcels, there will be no reduction in property tax revenue currently being collected.*

FAQs (Part 3 of 3)

- **Q: What benefits will the park offer to the Town?**
- *A: Parks provide a wide range of benefits. They improve quality of life for all, bring tourism and stimulate economic development for local businesses, build sense of place and cohesiveness within a community, and add value to local real estate.*
- **Q: What will happen to the bypass road that runs through the park?**
- *A: When NH DOT was completing Shaker Bridge, a temporary bypass road was constructed to enable vehicles to access properties that would be cut off when the bridge was under construction. That temporary road has now been narrowed to 10 feet and was reclassified as a sidewalk by NH DOT, to be used exclusively by emergency vehicles only. The Town intends to continue maintaining the sidewalk for pedestrian use.*
- **Q: Are private donations tax deductible?**
- *A: YES!*