
Pioneer League Board of Directors

447 Merrimac St, Newburyport, MA 01950

Contact Info?

4th April 2022

Richard Burke Jones

City Clerk, City of Newburyport

60 Pleasant St

Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Mr. Jones,

In early December 2011 it was brought to our attention that the Committee on Budget & Finance reviewed Order 311, which sought the acceptance of \$110,000.00 in funding from the Mayor Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation. This gift included \$40,000.00 for the development of three pickleball courts in Lower Atkinson Common.

We addressed the way these funds for pickleball were forced into Lower Atkinson without consent or input from the Pioneer League to the council in December. Thanks to the intervention of the council, a public process was put in place. Our communication on overcrowding, consideration of time or money invested into the park, the consent of neighbors, and public process regrettably resulted in no material change.

The public process of the parks commission has ignored input by the community and is moving forward with the same multi-use idea we started out with in Dec. There is no point to a public process where the public is ignored. No alternatives seem to have been considered for the grant money. Review of these meetings clearly indicate there is no consent for this plan. All protests from neighbors, families, and the league have apparently been dismissed.

The parks commission does not appear to be listening and we ask the council to intervene immediately and reject any plan approved for pickleball and review the park commission's decision to move forward without the consent of the residents and the thousands of people who already use this park.

Sincerely,

Pioneer League Board of Directors