

“When considering grant applications, priority will be given to projects that serve our local community.”

Note: For the purpose of this part of the application, Parks & Rec will be used in place of Heath Parks and Recreation Committee.

Evidence of local community support and involvement.

The Parks & Rec Committee has engaged community members in numerous activities. Some examples include:

- The Burnt Hill Trail could not have been completed without the many community volunteers who met and cleared the trail.
- The 5k Heath Fair Road Race required the support of many community volunteers placed along the route.
- The pollinator garden by Community Hall was a joint Parks and Rec and community effort.
- Maintaining the center garden is an ongoing engagement with community members.
- A free Ping Pong table was acquired for Parks & Rec by a community member when told of the need and picked up by another community member

Evidence of a favorable track record and dedication of the applicant.

Parks and Rec has consistently demonstrated significant success in getting funding and completing a number of efforts that benefit the whole community:

- Connected the Catamount State Forest to the Burnt Hill trail in Heath by getting a grant to purchase connecting land.
- Has been working with Rowe to complete the next stage of the Catamount to Mohawk State Forest Trail. It is an ambitious effort only feasible through the efforts of Parks and Rec chair, Mike Cucchiara, with support from the other members of Park & Rec and from the Rowe community members.
- Successfully applied for a grant to purchase 4 picnic tables with 2 placed in the center and 2 at Jacobs Road.
- The committee gained the funding necessary to put up trail kiosks in 4 locations in Town, and is currently working on maps and information similar to what is already on the Burnt Hill trail kiosk.
- On June 14 Parks & Rec initiated the cleanup of the Jacobs Road playing field which had been neglected since the school closed. Parks & Rec wrote to the Select Board to document issues with the playing field that prevented it's recreational use, provided photos, and set a date to start clearing the debris. The Select Board took on the project and the field was cleared.

- Successfully submitted a grant application to resurface the basketball/pickleball court in the center. Has responded to requests for more information by the grantee and has a company ready to do the work in the spring.
- Started a Pickleball program that has 39 people signed up to play: 19 from Heath which includes two junior high students, and 10 Rowe/Charlemont players. This is an example besides the trail work of creating community beyond our own Town borders which is vital for hilltowns.
- Held a Pickleball clinic where \$730 was raised toward meeting Heath's contribution to the center court resurfacing grant.
- Sought a free ping pong table that was folding and on wheels (for storage) for use at Jacobs Road. One was located due to the effort of one community member and picked up in Weston Mass by another. The table is set up in the café on Monday and Wednesday evenings when the building is open.

Ability to augment our goal of offering diverse forms of cultural activities to Heath residents of all ages. New applicants offering unique projects are encouraged.

What unique opportunities may evolve from the Community Hall facelift at this time is an unknown. It could be a Monte Carlo night, a wine tasting night, a talk on AI and its influence on our society. There are other activities that may not be unique in the dictionary sense but are unique to Heath. Examples are facilitating pickleball, that fastest growing sport among seniors; adding ping pong as an activity; and working on creating hiking trails that connect Catamount State Forest to Mohawk Trail State Forest, a distance of 26 miles.

Financial need.

The Parks & Rec yearly stipend is \$250. Every effort by the committee is financed through grants, donations, and a stabilization account. This money is targeted for re-surfacing the basketball court in the center.

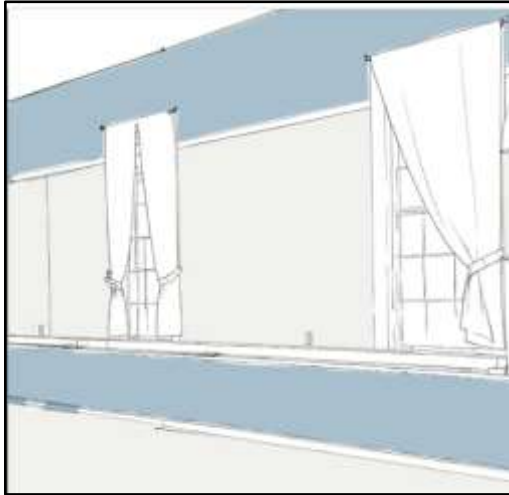
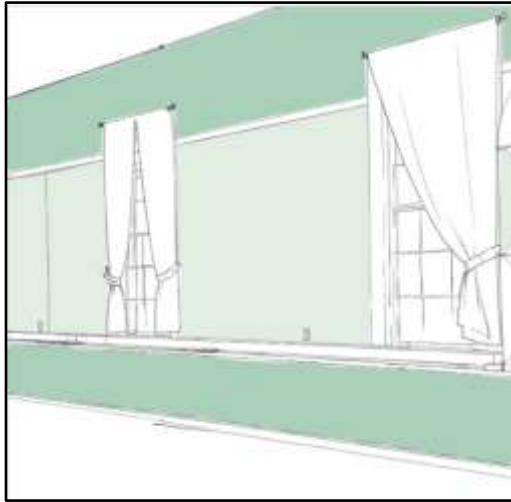
Demonstrated planning.

All of the above listed under "Evidence of a favorable track record . . ." show demonstrated planning. Further this application is part of a four-phase project that demonstrates long range planning. The project will proceed in phases over 2 or 3 years as funds and community involvement allow. Parks and Rec is also considering other grants towards the facelift effort.

The facelift phases are described on the next page.

Phase 1 – the meeting room upstairs

This phase of the facelift will focus on the upper meeting room. It will include (1) painting the ceiling, (2) painting the paneling with historical colors. One concept for Phase 1 will be two complementary historic colors which will be researched by the Heath Historic Society and Parks & Rec. These images are for concept only, not specific colors.

**Phase 2 Goals – Replacing the upstairs furnishings**

The current heavy tables and shabby metal chairs need to be replaced with new furniture—comfortable and versatile enough for social gatherings as well as events. The chairs will be folding chairs with a curved back, and padded on both the seat and the back. There will be a rolling rack for the chairs and possibly two for the tables. The estimated quantity is 48 chairs and 8 tables.

Phase 3 Goals – balcony, stage, and floor

- clean up the stage area and the balcony by removing all building materials and clearing the stairways
- assessing what furnishings and props on the stage should be retained, discarded, or replaced
- painting the stage, the balcony walls, and upgrading the floor in a feasible way

Phase 4 goals – the first floor

The phase 4 priority will be to install an in-wall dehumidifier that will vent to the outside. Other goals will be:

- paint the ceiling
- remove any items blocking the stairs by the bathrooms
- replace the stained tiles in front of the men's bathroom
- create a fall/winter playroom for preschoolers including a changing table in the former nurse's office. Play toys would be stored here when not in use.

While this seems very ambitious, the community has already taken the first step by replacing the windows. This is what has inspired this effort. Each step forward creates energy and interest.