



575 Barrett's Mill Rd.
Concord MA 01742

September 21, 2020

Community Preservation Committee
Town House, Monument Square
Concord MA 01742

Emerson Field Flag Pole

Dear Chairman,

This letter is in support of the grant application to refurbish/repaint/repair the flagpole at Emerson Field, which is being submitted by Rebecca Purcell and Melissa Saalfield, on behalf of the Town of Concord.

As one of the co-tenders of the flag on Emerson Field, I wish to express how important that flag pole is to the people of the town of Concord. This flag is prominent to all those either on or around the field. It is seen by all who play soccer, baseball, run or walk their dog. It is clearly visible to all the neighbors who live around the field. It gives people a sense of national pride in good times and presents a symbol of unity in times of grief or sorrow.

As one of those who lower the flag to half-staff, when needed, I find that this represents a great way to show respect for tragedies of the past or the death of a hero. It is a great honor for me to carry out this task and I trust it will long continue. It would be a tragedy of its own if the flagpole were not well cared for and maintained in a serviceable state.

Yours sincerely

Michael Rudd



To: Community Preservation Committee
Town Manager

October 13, 2020

Re: Letter of Commitment for the Emerson Playground Flag Pole improvements

The Concord Town Recreation Department is a leader in providing activities that enhance personal development, promote healthy life styles, and encourage greater community involvement. As a dedicated group of professionals, we strive to promote lasting experiences, while creating fun, unique, inclusive, opportunities in excellent facilities. Concord Recreation is a self-supporting operation that strives to keep pace with a growing community to deliver the highest quality customer focus programs, events and services.

The Recreation Commission and the Concord Recreation Department fully supports the project proposal for improvements to the Flag Pole at Emerson Playground. The facility serves as a treasured resource, a natural community gathering spot, is home to many organized activities (baseball, softball, soccer, track, summer camps) in addition to being a unstructured recreation destination (dog walking, tennis, basketball, playground, spray fountain, etc...). The proposed enhancements to the Flag Pole at Emerson will improve upon the image of the park and will continue to keep Emerson Playground looking like a great community resource.

The Commission and Department fully support the proposed project to enhance/upgrade the Flag Pole at Emerson Playground. We hope you will consider providing support to this initiative and look forward to a great event for all of Concord.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Casey Atkins
Chair, Recreation Commission

(signed)

Ryan Kane
Director, Recreation

TO: Chairperson/Community Preservation Committee.

It is with the greatest enthusiasm that I write in support of the restoration for the flag staff in Emerson Field.

As a veteran I view our Nationals Colors flying from that location to epitomize the blessings shared across our country. From my earliest days it was that flag that flew over countless community events typical to life in America. There was a time when the two most important athletic events on the school calendar occurred under that waving flag. Thanksgiving football involved the cornerstone two towns of the revolution, Concord vs. Lexington. Plus every spring on April 19th schools from many surrounding towns gathered at that field for the Patriots Day track meet. However countless other events occurred, girls field hockey and the baseball games played on an immaculate diamond. When in Vietnam, on those two holidays, Patriots Day and Thanksgiving, that was my vision of American life back home. The flag is a proud symbol of our country and upon that field at that location it witnessed an enthusiastic example of our lives as Americans.

Please allow me to add one more perspective, that of the original advocates for the placement of that flagpole. The James J Mansfield American Legion post is no longer operative mainly due to a decline of the veteran population in Concord. However I was one of the last commanders of that post and I humbly absorbed the fervent spirit of "the old timers" who viewed that pole and that location as a shared symbol of their contribution to country and community.

I am extremely heartened that we will not break faith with all the significant Concordian passion that flag pole and the colors that fly there represent to decades of our citizens.



Harold Nichols
58 Brusters Hill Rd.
Concord, MA 01742.