

**PROJECT APPLICATION
FOR
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING**

Submission Date: 2/9/24

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant: (Please circle public or private): Southwick public library

Street Address: 95 feeding Hills Rd.

P.O. Box: _____

Town, State, Zip Code: Southwick MA 01077

Telephone: 413-569-1221

E-mail: lblair@comars.org

Website: Southwick.ma.org/library

Contact Person(s) and/or Project Director(s):
Lynn Blair Library Director
Name Title

Name of governing board, trustees, directors or members:
Board of Trustees: Michael McMahon (chair), Jennifer Belden, Cynthia Warner, Maria Gallo, Tracy Maczyrak, Tommy Clark-Bissailon

Federal Tax Identification Number (if non-profit) 046-001-307

PROJECT INFORMATION

Amount Requested \$ 20,659.15

Project Site Address:
95 feeding Hills Rd.
Southwick MA 01077

Purpose (please check all that apply)
 Open Space
 Recreation
 Historical
 Housing

Project Site Assessors Map/Parcel: map 067 Parcel 132

Project Site Deed Book/Page: Book 3358, page 193

Current Owner: _____

Brief Project Description:
Revitalizing library yard for recreation

Signature of Applicant: [Signature] Date: 2/8/24

Signature of Owner of Property: [Signature] Date: 2/15/24

Project Title: "Southwick Public Library- A New Chapter for the Library Yard

- 1. Scope of Concept of Project:** This project aims to revitalize the library's lawn and make it a more comfortable and engaging place for all patrons. Currently, the lawn only has one picnic table purchased several years ago. In the time since, we have seen the picnic table get a great deal of use and we would like to add more features in order to make the library lawn a draw for patrons to relax and enjoy the space as well as allow space for the library to potentially host more programs outdoors in nice weather. Features include an additional picnic table, benches, percussion musical instruments, and a permanent storywalk. The costs detailed in this application are an estimate and subject to change. Please note, that the first aspect of the project includes the creation of an area with bark mulch or an accessible alternative- this aspect will be handled by David Sutton, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, and the cost will be handled separately and will not be included as a part of this request.
- 2. Project Goal:** The goals of the project include the following:
 - a. Offering the community a safe and relaxing place to get together outdoors- a place for all ages.
 - b. Create a space where the library can host outdoor programs.
 - c. Offer another location where families can experience the joy of literacy and encourage interest in early literacy as well as a healthy outdoor activity with permanent Story Walk structures with rotating books featured.
 - d. The Percussion Play outdoor musical instruments allow those of all ages and abilities to experience musical expression outside in a new way by experimenting with music and sound as well as collaborative play.
- 3. Project Objectives:**
 - a. Add one new picnic table.
 - b. Add several benches.
 - c. Add a trash can.
 - d. Add percussion musical instruments (permanent structures).
 - e. Add a permanent Story Walk.
 - f. Add a new camera to the library's camera system to face this area of the yard.
- 4. Project Action Plan & Timeline**
 - a. The first step will be when (as mentioned above) Buildings and Grounds installs a 20x20 space for the picnic tables and percussion instruments- we are aiming for this spring as soon as weather allows. Once that is complete and if this request is approved:
 - i. Order the picnic table, benches, and trash can.
 - ii. Order the Percussion Play instruments.
 - iii. Order the Story Walk structures.
 - iv. Install camera mounted to the building.
 - v. Install all of the above in the library yard.

- b. Ultimately, the timeline is dependent on how quickly the items we ordered are shipped. If shipping times are short and Buildings and Grounds can install the items shortly after, it would be ideal to have items installed and ready for use by mid-summer.
- 5. **Project Evaluation and Maintenance:** Once the project is complete, Buildings and Grounds will be responsible for preventative and ongoing maintenance. The maintenance costs per year for the items requested in this application depend on the wear and tear, but are expected to be minimal.
- 6. **Other Funding Sources:** If the project is not approved by the CPC, the library will look for other funds to improve the yard, but it will not be to the scope of this requested project.
- 7. **CPC Funding Request:** The total estimated budget is reflected below: \$20,659.15.
- 8. **Budget:**

Vendor	Item(s)	Cost
Percussion Play	Inspired by Nature Ensemble	11,939.20 (quoted 1/29/24)
Barking Dog Exhibits	Story Walk Display	4,780.60 (quoted 1/5/24)
	4x4 Wooden Posts for Storywalk Display	Estimated 200
My Protective Security	Security Camera	855 (quoted 2/1/24)
MassCOR (MA Correctional Industries)	Trash Receptacle	721.79 (quoted 1/5/24)
MassCOR (MA Correctional Industries)	Metal Benches (2)	1,627.56 (quoted 1/5/24)
MassCOR (MA Correctional Industries)	Wooden Picnic Table 10 Foot	535 (quoted 1/5/24)

Total Estimated Cost: 20,659.15

- 9. **Budget Justification:** The budget above reflects all of the proposed improvements to the library yard. Items are noted as being quoted or estimated. We anticipate that prices may change while this project is being reviewed. The expected project would cost an estimated: \$20,659.15. Each type of expense is needed in this project in order to revitalize the library yard. Most importantly, a camera is needed facing that area in the unfortunate event of any vandalism or damage. Additionally, each item brings something to the project. The benches and picnic table will create relaxing places for patrons to sit and read and the picnic tables can serve as an area where the library can host programs. The trash receptacle will be key to making sure we can keep our yard looking neat. The story walk is a great way to get children and families outside while still experiencing literacy. The Percussion Play instruments are a fun and engaging addition

that will allow families and children to experience music and sound outdoors and overall enjoy being at the library.

10. Comparable Projects: I am not currently aware of any comparable projects being completed at this time.

11. CPC Goals/Objectives: This project accomplishes the goals/objectives of the CPC because this project aims to revitalize space for outdoor recreation at a local public institution. This project hopes to rehabilitate the underutilized space of the library yard to create an engaging place for community gathering.

12. Relevance to Community: This project is important because it revitalizes a public space in the Southwick community for those of all ages. We hope for it to become a community gathering space and draw more members of the community to the library. The project is innovative in that it creates a “library park” with not only the usual benches and picnic tables of a park, but also features like the Percussion Play Ensemble and the Storywalk.

13. Supporting Documents: Please see the attached supporting documents.

14. Selection Criteria: Please see the attached completed selection criteria.

Current Library Yard:





The current yard has one picnic table- which is well used during nicer weather. The rest of the yard is underutilized space.

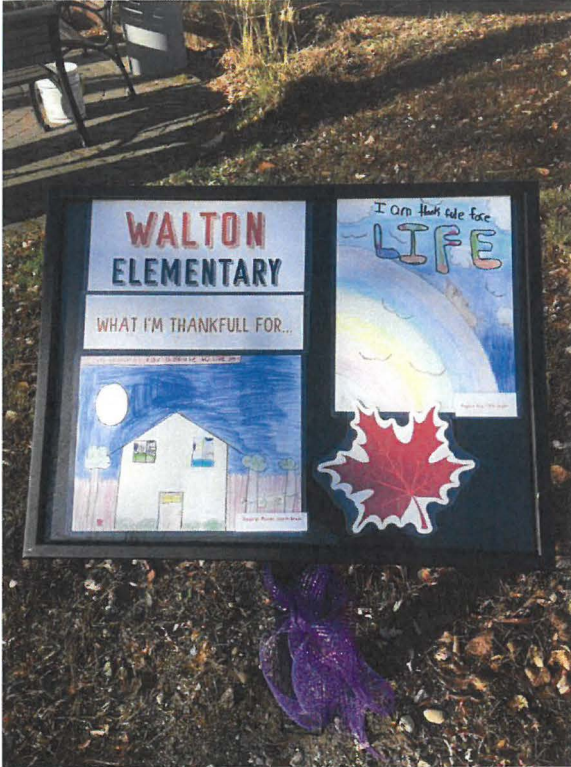
Maintenance will construct an approximately 20x20 area for the picnic tables and Percussion Play instruments. Benches will be placed in a shaded location. The Story Walk will start by the

sidewalk towards the entrance and run along the sidewalk to the corner of the building and around.

Images of Percussion Play Instruments and Story Walk:



Percussion Play, Inspired by Nature Ensemble



Barking Dog Exhibits, Storywalk Solutions

CPC SELECTION CRITERIA

Answers			#	QUESTIONNAIRE (Please provide additional documentation where applicable)
YES	NO	UNKN		GENERAL CRITERIA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Will the project promote revenue generation?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Does the project have support from multiple funding sources?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Does the project produce an advantageous cost/benefit value?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Does the project preserve or utilize currently owned town assets?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Does the project enhance social, economic, cultural, historical and natural resources?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Does the project preserve Southwick's rural and agricultural character?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	Will the project protect drinking water quantity and quality?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Does the project have urgency?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9	Will the project serve more than one CPA purpose (especially in linking open space, recreation and historical preservation)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Does the project acquire/preserve threatened resources?(cultural, historical or natural)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Does the project protect the environment/water of the Congamond Lake Region?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Is the project area at risk for development?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13	Does the project have the support of the majority of immediate abutters?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14	Will the project protect the aquifer recharge area?
YES	NO	UNKN		HISTORICAL PRESERVATION CRITERIA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Will the project preserve historic cultural resources?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Will the project protect and preserve archaeological resources of significance?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Does the project encourage historical preservation?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Will the project preserve, restore and/or rehabilitate historic architectural resources?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Will the project protect a Heritage Landscape?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Is the Property included in the local Survey of Historical Properties?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Will the project revitalize a historic center/village?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Is the property in danger of being demolished?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Can the buildings be converted for affordable housing while still retaining its historical quality?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Did the property ever play a documented role in the history of the town?

CPC SELECTION CRITERIA

YES	NO	UNKN		OPEN SPACE/RECREATION CRITERIA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Will the project provide connections with existing trails or potential trail linkages?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Does the project abut farmland?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Does the project provide recreation opportunities?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Does the project protect forested land?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Will the project permanently protect important wildlife habitat?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Does the project encourage open space and agriculture?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Will the project protect or enhance wildlife corridors, promote connectivity of habitat or prevent fragmentation of habitats?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Will the project preserve scenic views?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9	Does the project border a scenic road?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Will the project preserve important surface water bodies, including wetlands, vernal pools or riparian zones?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Will the project protect active agriculture?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Will the project provide opportunities for passive recreation and environmental education?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Does the project protect rare and endangered species?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Does the project protect an area of critical environmental concern?
YES	NO	UNKN		COMMUNITY HOUSING CRITERIA
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Does the project promote/ maintain diversity in housing stock?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Does the project meet the needs of an under-served population?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Does the project promote the use of existing buildings?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	Does the project ensure long-term affordability?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Does the project ensure handicap accessibility?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	Does the project comply with the Housing Authority Rules and Regulations?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Does the project support affordable housing?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Does the project support public recreation space development?



BARKING DOG INTERPRETIVE DESIGN INC.
S12824 COUNTY ROAD U
STRUM, WI 54770
+1 7152273644
kim@bdexhibits.com

Estimate

ADDRESS

Southwick Public Library
95 Feeding Hills Road
Southwick, MA 01077

SHIP TO

01077

ESTIMATE # BD25409

DATE 01/05/2024

EXPIRATION DATE 02/02/2024

SHIP VIA

TRUCK

REP

SB

REF #

Lynn Blair

ACTIVITY

QTY

RATE

AMOUNT

SW2022409120

CUSTOMER'S WOOD POST, ANGLE MOUNTED FRAMES

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR STORYWALK SOLUTIONS ORDER, OR TO PLACE YOUR ORDER, PLEASE EMAIL SUE AT storywalk@bdexhibits.com

SW-1824-45B

STORYWALK WOOD POST MOUNT ALUMINUM FRAME FOR PANEL 18H X 24W X 1/4" THICK, 5/16" GAP, 45 DEGREE ANGLE, (1) POST MOUNT ADAPTOR WITH (4) THRU HOLES TO ATTACH TO CUSTOMER 4X4 WOOD POST WITH (4) PROVIDED 1/4" X 1 1/2" GRK SCREWS, TWO PART CONSTRUCTION, BOTTOM REMOVABLE RAIL WITH RIVNUT CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDES (2) 18"X24" PIECES OF ACRYLIC, BLACK TEXTURE POWDERCOAT

[SW-1824-45B]

20

234.20

4,684.00

DISCOUNT

DISCOUNT FOR ITEMS ABOVE

20

-23.42

-468.40

S&H

IF SPECIAL SERVICES SUCH AS LIFTGATE OR DELIVERY APPTS ARE NEEDED, WE ARE UNABLE TO EXPEDITE TRANSIT AND CANNOT GUARANTEE A REQUESTED DELIVERY DATE

1

565.00

565.00

24-008509

SM-OXBOX

SMALL OX BOX - 44"LX38"WX35"H 20 = 335 lbs

1

0.00

SW-FRT

ALL OR SOME OF THE FOLLOWING ACCESSORIAL SERVICES MAY APPLY DEPENDING ON DELIVERY ADDRESS:

LIMITED ACCESS CHARGE

LIFTGATE SERVICE

RESIDENTIAL DELIVERY - TRUCK SHIPMENT

NOTIFY BEFORE DELIVERY

1

0.00

DELIVERY CAPABILITIES MUST BE VERIFIED AT TIME OF ORDER

REMIT PAYMENT TO: BARKING DOG INTERPRETIVE DESIGN INC., S12824 COUNTY ROAD U, STRUM WI 54770 | REMIT PAYMENT TO:
BARKING DOG INTERPRETIVE DESIGN INC., S12824 COUNTY ROAD U, STRUM WI 54770

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
SW-TERMS TERMS: 50% DOWN PAYMENT WITH SIGNED ESTIMATE, BALANCE NET 10 DAYS AFTER SHIPPING, OR NET 30 WITH A PURCHASE ORDER. ALTERNATIVE TERMS MAY BE AVAILABLE THROUGH DISCUSSION WITH BDID MANAGEMENT **ONLY MASTERCARD OR VISA CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED WITH A CONVENIENCE FEE; EFT/ACH ACCEPTED - ASK CUSTOMER SERVICE	1		0.00
SW-NOTE TEMPORARY PAGE DISPLAY SUGGESTION: USE 10 MIL HOT LAMINATE TO ENCLOSE THE BOOK PAGE OR PRINTED PAGE. INSTALL INTO FRAME WITH COLORED PLASTIC BACKER (SEE LITERATURE). THERE SHOULD BE 1/8" EDGE OF LAMINATE SURROUNDING ALL 4 SIDES OF THE STOCK. PAGES AND BACKER SHOULD BE PLACED BETWEEN THE 2 SHEETS OF ACRYLIC, THEN INSTALLED INTO THE FRAME. DURING SEASONS WITH HIGH HUMIDITY OR RAIN, CONDENSATION OR MOISTURE MAY OCCUR BETWEEN ACRYLIC SHEETS. SYNTHETIC PAPER AND PERMANENT PANELS WILL OFFER IMPROVED DURABILITY.	1	0.00	0.00
TOTAL			\$4,780.60

Accepted By

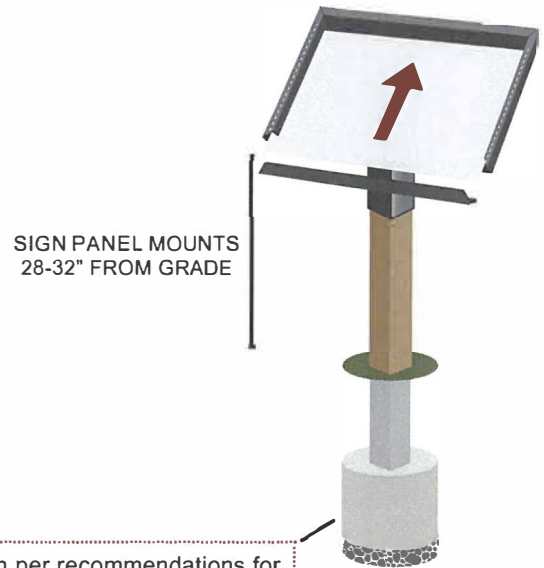
Accepted Date



StoryWalk® Solutions

FRAME with SLEEVE FOR YOUR WOOD POST - ANGLED

- Designed for an 18”H x 24”W page, with a viewable area of 17”H x 23”W
- 45 Degree display angle
- Aluminum frame attaches to an aluminum sleeve with mount plate that is designed to fit over a 4x4 wood post. *(60” wood post not included)*
- Removable bottom rail for easy page insertion
- Two sheets of acrylic protect the laminated page
- 3 Year Warranty on the powder-coated aluminum frame.
- Made in the USA



SIGN PANEL MOUNTS 28-32" FROM GRADE

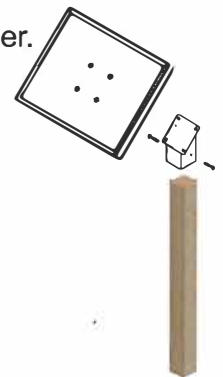
Prepare footing depth per recommendations for your geographic region. Ensure that post is plumb and level while back-filling with appropriate materials. Drill a 9/16” thru hole at post-end for insertion of 1/2” diameter x 8” long piece of rebar for added security.

Assembly Instructions:

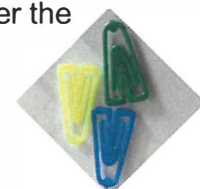
1. Attach the sleeve to the post using provided hardware.
2. Attach the frame to the mount plate using the provided hardware and allen driver. You will need a 7/16” socket wrench to install the nylock nut. DO NOT use power tools as the stainless hardware may gall and seize.
3. Remove the 2 screws from the bottom frame rail with the provided allen driver.
4. Insert the acrylic sheets and replace the bottom rail.

Page Installation Instructions - First time

1. Remove the bottom frame rail using the provided allen driver
2. Remove the blue masking from both sides of the acrylic sheets.
3. Place your page and optional colored backer between the sheets of acrylic.
4. Slide the sheets into the frame bottom.
5. Replace the bottom rail.



Moisture Issue? Add 2 or 3 Clip Spacers to the bottom of your page to minimize water from creeping up between the acrylic sheets. It creates a larger gap; therefore, moisture will not be drawn between the sheets as easily. Clip spacers are small, plastic paper clips that are sold under the brand Plastiklips LP-0200.



Cleaning Instructions:

- Use a soft cloth and a diluted soap & water solution to wash the display.
- Dry the display with a soft cloth.
- DO NOT USE ammonia cleaners (Windex) or paper towels as they may damage the acrylic.

Quotation

Invoice To:
Southwick Public Library
95 Feeding Hills Road

Deliver To:
Invoice Address

Southwick
MA
01077
United States of America
Lynn Blair
Tel: 413-569-1221 ext. 105
Email: lblair@cwmares.org
Tax ID: TBC
Purchase Order Number
Customer Job Reference Southwick Public Library

Our Job Reference QU/93035
Quotation Date: 29-Jan-2024

Delivery Lead Time (days) 00
Quotation Valid Until: 28-Feb-2024



Percussion Play Ltd
Staple Ash Lane
Froxfield
Hampshire
GU32 1DJ

UK/ROW +44 (0) 1730 235180
USA/CAN +1 (866) 882-9170

info@percussionplay.com
www.percussionplay.com

Part Number:	Part Description:	Part Text:	Qty:	Unit Price:	Value:
PLEASE NOTE: DELIVERIES CAN TAKE PLACE UP TO THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON THE DELIVERY DATE AND WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND NOT TO PLAN INSTALLATION DATE TO COINCIDE WITH THE EXACT DATE OF DELIVERY.					
PPNATURESEMGR	Inspired by Nature Ensemble (Ground Fix)	Comprised of (See Below)	1	10,660.00	10,660.00
BELL3MIXXG	Harmony Bells Minor Bunch (Set of 3) (Ground Fix)		1	0.00	0.00
PPSUNFXXXG	Sunflower Petal Drum (C-Pygmy) (Ground Fix)		1	0.00	0.00
PPLIBES6XXGR	Liberty Bells C-Major (Set of 6) (Ground Fix)		1	0.00	0.00
PACKDEL	Packaging and Delivery/Freight	Incoterms DDP (Duties and Taxes Paid)	1	1,279.20	1,279.20

Additional
Text:

Sub Total USD (Excl. TAX): 11,939.20
0.00% TAX 0.00
Total USD (Incl. TAX) 11,939.20

THIS QUOTATION IS TO SUPPLY ONLY NOT INCLUDING INSTALLATION. INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL TERMS AS SPECIFIED ABOVE (INCOTERMS 2010)

PLEASE QUOTE OUR JOB REFERENCE QU#3035 WHEN MAKING ENQUIRES.PERCUSSION PLAY TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALES APPLY. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS EXCEPTED.

File Path: F:\Percussion Play\Production\QUOTATIONS\QU_93000-93099\QU_93035 (ZZZZ005) (Quotation)

Last Printed/Modified: 29/01/2024 09:36

To Whom It May Concern,

I wholeheartedly support Southwick Library's grant application for community space enhancements. The addition of picnic tables and benches will create an inviting outdoor area for residents, promoting physical and mental well-being.

The proposed Permanent Story Walk structure is an exciting and dynamic addition, encouraging exploration and fostering a love for reading. This initiative enhances the library's role as a cultural and educational hub within our community. Additionally, the idea of installing Permanent Musical Instruments is creative and beneficial, providing a space for self-expression and community events.

I endorse this application wholeheartedly, believing these improvements will transform the outdoor space at Southwick Library into a vibrant, inclusive space for all ages, and further adding to the Library's diverse programming. Thank you for considering this application and supporting projects that strengthen our community.

Sincerely,

L. Hoch
Library Patron

January 31, 2024

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of the Southwick Public Library's application for Community Preservation Funds to enhance its outdoor offerings.

Of Southwick's many recreational areas, our library/school campus off Feeding Hills Road is arguably the most frequently used by Southwick residents. For families, the schools are an epicenter of activity. Augmenting them, the Southwick Public Library invites multi-age, multi-purpose educational experiences for students while additionally meeting the needs of retirees, preschoolers, homeschoolers, job-seekers, work-at-home professionals, and lifelong learners.

Our vibrant library/school campus regularly serves town residents beyond the boundaries of its buildings. Playing fields bustle with athletes and their families while guests gain their first impression of Southwick during sports events. On evenings and weekends, adults walk the track while neighborhood kids swing on the playscapes. Joyful memories crystalize on the sledding hill after every snow.

In short, outdoor recreation is integral to this busy area. Yet, the Southwick Public Library has virtually no outdoor embellishments.


From 2:30 - 3:30 on weekday afternoons, students socialize at a lone picnic table while waiting for homework buddies or a ride home. And anyone who has ever walked with a preschooler knows there are bugs to catch, cracks to leap, and races to run between the car and any building's door. The library has no means of capturing this curiosity.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic is, thankfully, in our past, fresh-air programming continues to be popular at public libraries. Outdoor story walks, yoga, nature detecting, gardening, plein air art, and plain ol' reading in the shade all attract patrons while continuing to fuel exploration and learning. Having an accommodating space for such programs is a way of expanding our town library without ever hiring an architect.

Improvements to the Southwick Public Library's outdoor area would meet the CPC's goal to support open space and outdoor recreation. The library's requested embellishments would be an attractive, highly visible, and well-used community improvement.

I hope you agree.

With sincere thanks for your consideration,


Andrea Bugbee
77 Tannery Road
Southwick, MA