

# Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

---

## Finance Committee's Pro's & Con's of STM October 10, 2012

Town of Southwick  
Finance Committee Explanations  
Special Town Meeting, October 10, 2012

### Article 1

#### Pros:

- It will provide increased recreational facilities for the Town
- There is the potential to raise revenue to defray the Town's Park and Rec department's costs.
- There could be increased economical benefits from the park attendees to local businesses

#### Cons:

- There is a potential for high future costs for maintenance and management
- The costs will be more for the Town to build and maintain versus a private entity
- It is unclear whether parking fees can be charged for events not held on the property relative to deed restrictions

### Article 2

#### Pros:

- No bonding is required because the funds are available

#### Cons:

- A yes vote will bring the CPC funds down significantly

Discussion and a vote took place regarding submitting the following addendum to this article:  
"Any and all funds not used for the specified improvements as listed in the 6-4-12 Whalley Park Preliminary Cost Estimate Document, must revert back to the CPC fund."

Motion to accept was made by T. Witham, seconded by R. Horacek. (vote: 5 yes and 1 abstention by T.M.)

### Article 5

#### Pros:

- When the Town approved the initial sewer article in 2001, part of the proposal was that ultimately the Town would have to complete the initial sewer line by extending it to the Westfield treatment plant. Before the extension happened, we were able to tie into the 12" Westfield line. They are coming to the point where they will need the capacity of that line for their own needs. This extension will happen solely in Westfield and extend our 21" line directly to the treatment plant. When this is complete, the Town can increase our flows to the line capacity if and when we see fit by adding additional areas to the existing line and/or constructing additional lines.

#### Cons:

- There is none. This is part of the original project and is a key element of the agreement we negotiated with the City of Westfield, whereby we were allowed to use their treatment facility.

## **Article 6**

### **Pros:**

- A vote will add a valuable and unique property to the Town's open space. It will protect this parcel from development and open it up for passive recreation.

### **Cons:**

- A no vote will deny the funding to protect this property from further development.

## **Article 7**

### **Pros:**

- Our Town water tank is in need of repair. It was found to be more cost effective to construct a new tank, than to repair the existing tank.
- The new tank has a 50 year life expectancy

### **Cons:**

- If the tank isn't replaced, residents would spend a larger amount of money to repair the existing tank rather than getting a new tank with warranties.
- If we were to rebuild the current tank it has a 20 year life expectancy

## **Article 8**

### **Pros:**

- The Water Department is being proactive in addressing the aging waterlines prior to a major problem occurring. The monies would not be taken from the Town's general fund.

### **Cons:**

- If postponed, it could affect the water supply and traffic flow to residents due to problems occurring within the current aging water lines.

## **Article 9**

### **Pros:**

- This system is critical to the supervision of the Town's water system. It alerts the Water Department of any problems.

### **Cons:**

- Problems could occur to the water tank resulting in residents losing their water supply and the Town's water supply data having to be monitored manually, causing an increase in employee wages.