Smith Academy Park Pavilion

Articles #25 and #27 of this evening’s Town Meeting concern the construction of the Smith Academy Park Pavilion, next to Town Hall.

At the May 2018 Town Meeting, Community Preservation funds were approved to engage an architect to prepare a design for a pavilion at Smith Academy Park. The Open Space Committee solicited proposals from local architects for the design and Laura Fitch of Fitch Architecture & Community Design of Amherst was selected.

The Open Space Committee worked with Laura last summer on various pavilion designs and ultimately came up with four possibilities. Several well attended community meetings were held in the Fall which led to significant changes to the proposed pavilion designs. The Open Space Committee then conducted a poll of residents as to the favored pavilion design. Ballots were available at Town Hall on election day and this resulted in 880 votes being cast with the chosen design receiving 35% of the votes with the other three designs receiving 25%, 23%, and 17% of the votes.

A summary of the two articles concerning the Smith Academy Park Pavilion is as follows:

Article #25 – this article if approved will appropriate $60,000 of Community Preservation funds for the pavilion construction.

Article #27 – this article if approved will allow the Open Space Committee to submit a cost reimbursement grant application in the amount of $55,934 to the State Division of Conservation Services to partially fund the construction of the pavilion. The potential grant award is the lesser of $100,000 or 58% of the $96,438 budgeted cost of the Pavilion. The 58% amount ($55,934) represents the Town’s grant reimbursement rate based on the State’s reimbursement formula.

Please note that the total of the potential State grant award and the Community Preservation funds exceed the budgeted costs of the project. This additional funding will allow the project to proceed even if the construction bids come in higher than budgeted. Any unused funds will revert back to Community Preservation.