“Charity proceeds from the heart.”

-Sophia Smith, 1866.
The Park Site in History

1854
Main Street was part of a long, linear common with the future park site at the geographic center; similar linear commons stood in many towns along the Connecticut River.

1873
Many homes lined Main Street; the future park site became part of the town’s civic core.
The Park Site in History

1888-1889

1908

1910

After 1908
The Park Site in History

1982, prior to demolition
(trussing details have been removed)

1983, dedication of new park
(earthen berms are built to create “space”)

The Park Today

Context & Views

- Strongest edges lie along Main and School Streets, defined by shade trees
- Weaker edges line the west and south sides
- Low-growing tree limbs and overgrown shrubs obscure views into and out of the park
The Park Today

Entrances & Circulation

- Park is part of “the loop” or “the block”
- Most pedestrians walk along the edges and not through the center
- Vehicles are separated from pedestrians
- Conflict areas are present at crosswalks
The Park Today

Plants

- Two significant trees growing along the Main Street edge; Sycamore a native species
- Interior trees with dense, low-hanging canopies
- Interior shrubs overgrown and perceived as unsafe
The Park Today

Details

- Few historic features remain
- Many contemporary features have been added
- Contemporary features clutter the park landscape
Hatfield Voices
some thoughts from park users, caretakers, historians…

• The park should connect to surrounding facilities, including the Town Hall, Capawonk Village, Center School, and be a stopping and resting place for pedestrians walking the “loop” or “block”
• The park could be a back/front yard to be used by Seniors, especially those living at Capawonk
• The area in front of Town Hall should be reserved for the Veterans’ memorials, but the stones may be re-arranged, and more may be added in the future
• The park would be used more if people could see through it – people don’t feel safe inside, and the low shrubbery attracts bugs!
• A large, open lawn is important – it can be used for many gatherings and events
• A fountain would be lovely, especially if allowed to take the form of an ice sculpture in winter (like South Deerfield’s)
• Don’t forget trash bins and bike racks
Landscape Program

• Restore **VIEWS** into and out of the park.

• Retain the **CORNERSTONE** and other commemorative features.

• Rethink **CIRCULATION** paths.

• Provide ample amount of **SEATING**.

• Provide a setting for a **BANDSTAND**.

• Redesign the **PLANTING** so that it provides shade but also permits visibility.

• Allow for the addition of event-related **FEATURES**, including a tent lawn.
Bandstand Structures

Suffield, CT

Portland, ME

Groveland, MA

Rehoboth, DE

Fairlee, VT

Milton, MA
Hatfield’s Architectural Styles
Hatfield’s Architectural Details
Concept #1

- Overall circulation pattern reflecting 1888-1889 lithograph of Smith Academy Park site
- 25’ x 25’ bandstand or pavilion set on slight rise (18”) at geographic center of park with Smith Academy building frieze incorporated into structure/setting
- Smith Academy site boulder relocated to area in front (east side) of bandstand
- Four out of six existing lindens on north side of park retained, and limbed to 15’ above the ground
- Screening of evergreen trees along west side (parking lot area)
- 5’ wide walkways throughout
Concept #2

- Overall circulation pattern allowing for maximum green space inside park; connecting to existing “loop” or “block” walk through Hatfield

- 15’ x 35’ bandstand or pavilion structure located at western end of park atop a slight rise (18”); Structure designed in tobacco barn style; Smith Academy frieze incorporated into design of setting/structure

- Evergreen screen behind (west side) of pavilion

- Smith Academy boulder relocated to center front of park (east side)

- Berms and lindens completely removed

- 5’ walks throughout park
Concept #3

- Overall circulation pattern and orientation of park facing northward, toward School Street

- 20’ x 30’ bandstand/pavilion located near Town Hall on slight rise (18”); Smith Academy frieze and boulder incorporated into setting

- Tall shade trees planted between bandstand/pavilion and Town Hall

- Fountain or water feature located opposite bandstand near north end of park

- Evergreen screen along parking lot (west side)

- Two out of six lindens retained along School and Main Streets, and additional shade tree planted between each set of two lindens

- 5’ wide walks throughout; 6’ “promenade” walk leading from fountain to bandstand
Thank You

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Smith Academy