

**ARTICLE 45. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT FUND –
FRANK FEELEY FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money not to exceed \$799,668 for Open Space and Recreation purposes of the Community Preservation Act from FY24 Estimated Annual Revenue and then from the CPA General Reserve Fund, if needed, for the purpose of designing, constructing, and equipping improvements to the Frank Feeley Fields located at 200 Raymond Road to rehabilitate and restore these fields, including, but not limited to, playing field upgrades, installing dugouts, erecting bleachers, handicap accessibility enhancements, drainage improvements, irrigation, demolition, site preparation and all other incidental and related costs; or act on anything relative thereto.

Submitted by the Community Preservation Committee.

(Majority vote required)

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT: The Frank Feeley Fields are home to the Town tennis courts, several softball fields, and a baseball field. There is one 90-foot, lighted baseball diamond with a press box, bleachers, concession area, and restrooms; three 60-foot softball diamonds on two field levels; six tennis courts; and two pickleball courts. The softball diamonds have several safety issues regarding lack of protection from foul balls and the sun. Further, the swamp-like conditions on the two lower fields limit utilization during the key playing season. Sudbury youth girls' softball and adult softball operate their programs on all three fields at Frank Feeley Fields. These fields are in need of improvements and have safety concerns which need to be addressed. Some of these improvements are already underway and are being addressed in the previously approved Phase I portion of the project.

These Community Preservation Act funds would be used to complete key repairs to bring all three of the Feeley Fields softball diamonds up to the standards of other Town fields. Sudbury Girls Softball (SGS) feels it is critical to address the swamp-like conditions at the Feeley #1 and #2 softball diamonds. Due to Upper Feeley and parking lot run-off, combined with generally wet conditions in lower Feeley, large parts of the outfield, third base line, and bench area at Feeley # 1, and the first base line and bench area at Feeley #2 are unusable for weeks at a time due to swamp-like conditions. There have been wet springs where SGS could not use all of their fields until the middle of June when the season is almost over. The puddles create hazards for the players and coaches, and are a breeding ground for insects and mosquitos due to the stagnant water. Stagnant water increases the threat of mosquitoes who may carry diseases such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), West Nile, etc. It is critical to minimize areas of stagnant water at these softball fields.

Phase II is extremely critical, but the most disruptive phase of SGS's request is the water remediation work that is needed on both lower Feeley diamonds #1 and #2. Installing interceptor drains to capture the Upper Feeley water run-off combined with a network of field drainage piping would enable SGS and other interested groups and families the ability to enjoy fully functioning softball fields all year round, including the wet season.

SGS has seen a continued growth in girl/family participation. As such, SGS has expanded its age groups and has programs throughout the year ranging from kindergarten to high school. In addition, the work over the past decade that SGS has done building interest and participation in town is showing results at the high school level. The improvements above will bring all three Feeley Fields softball diamonds available and fully operational during all three seasons: spring, summer, and fall.

SELECT BOARD POSITION: The Select Board supports this article.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.