**Proposed New Pickleball Courts in Conway – paid for with Community Preservation Funds**

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the Country and Conway has been very progressive in fostering interest for our residents and surrounding communities. The Parks & Recreation Committee started invitations to come and play on the Town Ballfield basketball courts back in April 2022 and have over 40 people involved in organized play and many more using the courts and equipment on their own time. We have provided nets and paddles with some basic beginner instructions and people have been extremely appreciative.

Since we have intruded on the basketballer’s outdoor play space, and the tennis courts are used often, we thought it appropriate to consider a new designated space to play pickleball. The Conway South River Meadow (formerly the “Rose lot”) is the location of choice for a 4 court pickleball pad close to the road and parking. The meadow is currently being used for hay, trails, and open space. There are beautiful dog friendly spaces to enjoy the outdoors and river area. The Parks & Recreation Committee has met with the Open Space Committee that currently maintains trails and supports native plants and wildlife on the property and they support the project stating that “there is no reason this beautiful space can’t be shared”. We believe the courts can be added with minimal intrusion to the meadow and supports healthy outdoor recreation for all ages that many will be interested in.

The 4 court area will consist of approximately 60 x 120 feet of painted blacktop with perimeter fencing, benches, a portable seasonal restroom and small storage shed. There is also a plan to improve the current parking and entrance driveway to make it safer to pull in and out, but it will remain packed gravel. The highway department will do the site work after hours, saving us a lot of money. There will be a small amount of ongoing maintenance needed, including mowing and a portable restroom at an estimate of $500 per year. The courts will need to be re-painted about every 5 years at an estimated $3,000.

We are proposing the use of Community Preservation Funds (CPF) to fund the total project, estimated at $115,000. This money is already in a long-term town investment account, available and waiting for your vote to use it. **There will be no additional taxation to fund this project**. The Town currently has a balance of over 1.3M in this CPF account and the Community Preservation Committee also supports use of the funds for this purpose.

Please **VOTE YES** at the Annual Town meeting on June 3rd, 2023, join in on the fun and come play pickleball with us!

Jan Warner

Conway Parks & Recreation Committee