

# **CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS**

## **March 15, 2021 (03/08 cont.)**

**Council Meeting**

**ADDENDUM**

**The following e-mails were received:**

**March 8, 2021** (after 4:00 p.m.) – **March 15, 2021** (before 4:00 p.m.)

**If you need further information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 610-7208.**

**From:** [Islington Creek - West End Residents and Businesses Alliance via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** 28-Year Delay of Islington Street Corridor Reconstruction Project Phase 2 (Dover to Congress) to FY27  
**Date:** Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:54:51 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Islington Creek - West End Residents and Businesses Alliance (IC-WE-ResidentsBizAlliance@comcast.net) on  
Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 21:54:48

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address: Islington Creek and West End Community

comments:

Below are questions Portsmouth City Council members can use to address topics Islington Creek and West End residents and businesses have been discussing regarding this Subject. Perhaps the Council could formally consider and respond to these questions prior to any further delay actions with respect to the Islington Street Corridor Project already delayed more than 22 years since originally committed as part of the Master Plan.

- 1) Have any Portsmouth City Council members been provided and reviewed traffic load data analysis from the four primary egresses for the City of Portsmouth including Islington Street since completion of all the new West End housing and rejuvenation that has seriously impacted Islington Street traffic and pedestrian safety between Congress and Bartlett?
- 2) What are the average vehicle per day loads based on the last official study available to the Council regarding the four primary egresses into and out of the City of Portsmouth so we can compare them with the numbers we have measured?
- 3) What are the City of Portsmouth recommendations that are derived from consideration of the answers to 1 and 2 in context of the relative safety, infrastructure conditions, and completion of the Islington Street Corridor infrastructure improvement project between Congress and Bartlett?
- 4) One Islington Creek neighbor who has been invested in or living on Islington Street since prior to the original plan approval 22 years ago in 1999 wonders why completion for something planned almost a quarter of a century ago has not yet be prioritized for completion since this is not a low income housing area given tax assessments well over \$1 million and many prior City Council plans, promises, and funding appropriations to complete all individually committed phases of this project.
- 5) Does the City of Portsmouth incorrectly assume businesses and residents along Islington Street will continue to forever accept the 22+ year "lack of funding" excuse for delay while at the same time the City has spent far greater sums of money on much less safety critical pet projects such as the Foundry Parking garage struggling to attain even 25% capacity, or the vast sums of money wasted on the McIntyre debacle even before groundbreaking?
- 6) Can our City Council respectfully suggest a course of action IC-WE Residents and Business Alliance taxpayers might use to raise awareness with the City of Portsmouth to avoid the drama escalated by the Redgate/Kane actions to achieve honoring the multiple 2016-2018 commitments made by the Council and City for final phase completions in 2019, then 2020, and then again slipped and promised for 2021 before now attempting to push out to 2027?
- 7) How does the City of Portsmouth plan to mitigate the 70+ new McIntyre residents commute to their nearest and most logical West End locale for services that will further negatively impact an already dire Islington Street public safety crisis caused by not completing the Congress to Dover/Bartlett phase of the project in a timely manner?
- 8) Could the City Council confirm they agree expeditious 2023 completion of the Islington Street Corridor between Congress and Dover is necessary to avoid public safety liability risk related to impassable sidewalks; missing or unsafe pedestrian crosswalk bump outs, lack of bike lane; poor sight lines; unsafe on street parking (which should be

prohibited given the density, traffic volume, and narrowness); no speed control deterrents; 45 MPH average speeds; and average 12,000-15,840 vpd as a result of the West End gentrification exploitation prior to responsible completion of infrastructure capacity improvements?

9) If number 8 above response is in the negative, can the City Council join us for a 9:30am to 10:30am Saturday morning round trip site walk from Congress to Bartlett and back down each sidewalk to experience the traffic and sidewalk hazards first hand prior to voting to delay funding completion of this final phase any further?

10) The American Recovery Act of 2021 (ARA 2021) became law on 3/11/2021 providing a minimum of \$500,000,000.00 million to NH for "water and sewer infrastructure." Could the Council please confirm if the City of Portsmouth has already requested or is in the process of requesting one or more grants authorized by ARA 2021 to be allocated our Islington Street Corridor "infrastructure" project?

This would enable our City to avoid the current liability risks for which we are currently exposed due to impassable sidewalks (more than 3 serious falls since 2019) and unsafe vehicular passage (more than 8 serious accidents, and one death since 2018) fomented by a 22-year assertion there is a "lack of funds" which obviously will not foil the risk public safety action claiming negligence or malpractice. The below excerpted text of the ARA 2021 can be found on pages 262-265 ( <https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/2021/03/13/portsmouth-councilor-islington-street-project-sidewalks-west-end-paige-trace/6936900002/>)

“(A) IN GENERAL. The Secretary shall reserve \$195,300,000,000 of the amount appropriated under subsection (a)(1) to make payments to each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

(i) \$25,500,000,000 of such amount shall be allocated by the Secretary equally among each of the 50 States and the (\$25,500,000,000 / 51 = \$500,000,000)

(D) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Respectfully,

Islington Creek - West End Residents and Businesses Alliance.

Please these comments part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting and permanent digital archive for long term reference.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.225.63

**From:** [Molly Shaw Wilson via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Attention to Families  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 5:51:44 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Molly Shaw Wilson (mollyshawwilson@gmail.com) on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 16:51:41

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address: 1360 South St

comments: Good evening

I am writing as a parent of children in our community and a mental health professional in town. Its hard not to compare our great city to the neighbors nearby and see the grave differences between us. Our community resources are significantly lacking during this pandemic, and our children are hurting. The schools are failing our children, our library and recreation centers remain closed for an entire year. There is an incredible rise in anxiety and depression, and some communities are even reacting in a suicide-prevention model. When will Portsmouth react? When will we re-open? I keep hearing the message about "waiting for guidance" - while watching towns around us open with success.

We are looking to other towns of Exeter and Stratham for resources. Visiting the library in Kittery and Lee. Paying for private schools to help fill the gap in what Portsmouth has lacked this year. Hiring pod teachers, outdoor educators and seeking mental health guidance.

Please, consider the future of this community, the young families and children who breathe life into this town. Their safety and well-being physically, socially and emotionally -The mental health community cannot meet the growing needs .... its time for town to open up and take care of its children.

Thank you

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.149.192.88

**From:** [Peter Somssich via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lane Configuration  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:44:51 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Peter Somssich (peter.somssich@gmail.com) on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 14:44:49

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address: 34 Swett Ave.

comments: Dear Councilors,

I urge you to put the discussion about the Bike Lane Configuration on Middle Street to bed. You have received input from the NHDOT and your own consultant telling you that the current configuration is safer for bicyclist than moving those lanes back adjacent to flowing traffic. That advice also included suggestions regarding sightlines., which should be addressed. Additionally, the idea of a new bike lane on Lincoln Ave. is a good one, and should be viewed as a way to supplement the bike lane network and not to replace the current one.

As an occasional bicyclist using Middle Street, I have no doubt that the current configuration provides more safety to bicyclists, especially those riding with family members, than a configuration that has the bike lanes adjacent to active traffic. If the lanes are moved back adjacent to the traffic, the chance of a serious accident, including possibly death, would certainly increase. Such an accident, I am convinced, would also quickly result in moving those bike lanes back to the current configuration. In traffic situations, we should always be protecting those least protected, that is pedestrian, bicyclists and children.

You have done your part, now it is time to listen to the experts. Please don't allow this issue to continue, making it the primary issue for the next Municipal Election

Thank you for all of your good work,  
Peter Somssich tel. 436-5221

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.71.240.138

**From:** [jane nilles via FormMail.com](mailto:jane_nilles_via_FormMail.com)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** bike lane moved to Highland Street  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 10:42:56 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
jane nilles (jane@talk2mi.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 09:42:54

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address: 208 Highland Street

comments: Good Morning Councilors,

As a resident of Highland Street, I have a few questions about moving the current bike lanes on Middle Street.

The first is do you know that there are two apartment buildings on Highland Street that have paved over the sidewalk right-of-way to create parking spaces for their residents? This is already a hazard for pedestrians and it will certainly be dangerous for prospective bicyclists.

The second is homeowners currently have the ability to park on Highland Street in front of their homes. Will this right be taken away with bike lanes on Highland Street?

I believe before any decisions are made this evening, coordination with due diligence needs to be done with Portsmouth's relevant community groups and departments.

This could include the NH Seacoast Greenway Project which is connecting bike paths from MA, NH, and Maine; the Portsmouth Smart Growth for the 21st Century (PS21) that hosted a Walkable City seminar (with Urban Planner, Jeff Speck) in 2015; the Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders (SABR); and our eTransportation Department and the knowledge and care that traffic engineer, Eric Eby provides. P

Thank you for all that you do. The dedication, time and passion you all have for Portsmouth and its residents is amazing!

Best,  
Jane

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.103.154

**From:** [Steve Adler via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lane  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 4:56:48 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Steve Adler (stadler@sau16.org) on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 15:56:46

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address: 49 Orchard Street

comments: Dear Councilors

I appreciate that a study was done to make sure the right choices were made about the design of the bike lane. The results of the study clearly supported the bike lane with some minor modifications. Please make sure you follow the experts advice and make the modifications that were suggested. Our city needs thoughtful and well informed planning. Please listen to the experts you hired.  
Steve Adler

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.235.11.46

**From:** [John Thompson via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lane  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 12:28:17 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
John Thompson (deweybrew@gmail.com) on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 11:28:15

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address: 35 Woodbury Ave

comments: Hello, Councilors.

I'm writing to you all about the ongoing bike lane conversation and the seeming willingness of some of you to spend around a quarter of a million dollars to remove a short stretch of the bike lane from Middle Street. Regardless of how you feel about the lanes, and I know there are some strong opinions on the council, there is no way this is the time to spend this kind of money when there are proposals to cut teacher salaries and many discussions about the COVID-related drop in revenue, particularly in the context of parking and other revenue sources tied to tourism and visitation.

As a 15-year taxpayer, I really can't wrap my head around the possibility of such a significant expenditure or funds on such an insignificant project when we're trying to figure out how to energize the town's economy, entertain building a massive sports complex, while still wrangling with expensive lawsuits from the Wastewater treatment plant and with Toyota of Portsmouth. With the last year's economic challenges, I see a tax increase to cover the proposed bike lane expenditure as massively irresponsible if not capricious.

Please be respectful of the community's collective financial situation and leave the bike lane where it is.

Sincerely,

John Thompson

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.30.229.44



**From:** [Brad Lown via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Sunday, March 14, 2021 9:27:10 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Brad Lown (lown@nhtrialattorneys.com) on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 08:27:06

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address: 45 Brackett Road

comments: I have been riding my bike on Middle Street almost daily for over 20 years. The buffered bike lanes have not been perfect, but they are safer for children. But aside from the safety issue, please don't take any action that would require the taxpayers to repay any portion of the grant. Even if you don't like the current configuration of the bike lanes, that doesn't seem to me to justify burdening the taxpayers.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 173.162.247.137

**From:** [Kate Hatem via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lanes and Skate Park  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 11:15:15 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Kate Hatem (katemph@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 10:15:12

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address: 1 Ash St Portsmouth

comments: Dear City Councilors,

A week has passed since the public comment for the remainder of your agenda tonight. I just wanted to remind you of my position on the bike lanes in hopes that you vote in line with the overwhelming support for maintaining them as they are with perhaps minor improvements per the experts.

The city has looked into the bike lane issue numerous times. They hired experts to research the safety of the bike lanes and each group has come back with the same answer: don't move the cars back to the curb. For some reason, it seems that several members of the council have decided to ignore the science and opinions of experts on this issue.

I would implore the council to trust science and defer to the experts. Take a step back from the position that you know better than the experts. You do not know better than the collective voice of multiple experts and agencies. Please do not cost me and all of the other Portsmouth tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars in a payback situation. Please, be reasonable.

Additionally, I hope that the Council votes in favor of redoing the Greenleaf Skate Park. Skateboarders have fewer and fewer spots to legally and safely skateboard. They deserve to have a local spot to enjoy their sport. Please support this motion.

Thank you for your time.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.235.12.71

**From:** [Karen McCormick via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Sunday, March 14, 2021 4:15:29 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Karen McCormick (karenwalksalot60@gmail.com) on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 15:15:27

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address: 351 Union Street Portsmouth

comments: Please leave the bike lanes as is. They're just fine. Great for biking and walking. Functional. No upkeep needed.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.71.229.132

**From:** [Robert J. Kozman via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Sunday, March 14, 2021 11:07:09 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Robert J. Kozman (kozman@comcast.net) on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 10:06:58

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address: 81 Park St.

comments: Please make the bike lanes safer for bicyclists by moving the cars back to the curb. Please make the driving lanes safer for everyone by moving the parked cars to the curb. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.30.230.24

**From:** [Linda Briolat via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike lanes, spending  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 9:51:40 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Linda Briolat (lbriolat@comcast.net) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 08:51:37

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address: 260 Thornton St

comments: Good Monday morning to you all,  
Let me start by saying thank you for sitting through all of the zoom meetings this past year. They are difficult to watch and sometimes difficult to follow and I'm sure sometimes difficult to participate in. It would be more enjoyable to see you all at city hall in council chambers.

I have just a couple of brief comments. I'm unclear why you brought in the experts in bike lanes, Toole, when it is pretty evident that some will propose tonight to do something completely different from the recommendations of the experts.

So it will cost the city money and the city gives back a grant that it received. I'm not familiar with who on the council has a deep background in bicycle safety? I could have missed something.

Secondly it seems as though Councilor Trace wants Islington St fixed finally. I'm not sure where all this money is coming from to sink into something that could wait until we are on the other side of this pandemic. The light is at the end of the tunnel but we aren't there yet.

It would be amazing to see as much effort put into the city coming out of the pandemic by some members of the city council as they have put into their own apparent efforts to find diversions from the focus of the direct needs of people during this difficult time.

As always thank you for reading this.

Linda Briolat

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.30.229.158

**From:** [Jon Dickinson via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 11:24:58 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Jon Dickinson (jon3425@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 10:24:56

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address: 220 Walker Bungalow Rd

comments: Councilors, I am writing in support of the proposed changes to the bike lanes on Middle street. The current configuration is confusing and dangerous. Designating Lincoln street as the safe path to school makes sense. Thank you

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.232.208.39

**From:** [Mary Lou McElwain via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike lanes  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 1:07:25 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Mary Lou McElwain (ml259@comcast.net) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 12:07:24

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address: 259 South Street

comments: Please vote in favor of the bike lane improvements suggested by Toole Design. Returning vehicles to the curb and returning cyclists between parked cars and traveling vehicles is much less safe for cyclists ( who more often are knocked to the ground by drivers exiting and hitting them with car doors than by passengers exiting a vehicle) .The safety improvements that Toole recommends can be done without major expense .

To return even a short section of Middle Street to vehicles at the curb is not safe for cyclists, and confusing for both cyclists and drivers.

Thank you.

Mary Lou McElwain

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.235.15.119

**From:** [Joe and Michelle Flynn via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Building a new skate park!  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 1:06:38 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Joe and Michelle Flynn (mchaissonflynn@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 12:06:36

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address: 301 Lincoln Ave

comments: We are writing in support of the proposal to build a skatepark in Portsmouth. With the loss of Rye Airfield our son John, who is an avid skater, and his friends have had to find places to skate and we know this has been an issue for residents. If these kids had a place to go we could mitigate this tremendously and also create a safe place for all ages of skaters!

We live in a very sports minded community, lets diversify who is served by the facilities we invest in. Skating has nurtured so much in our son, he has made SO MANY friends of all ages, he has developed a perseverance and agency as he works on landing tricks (you have to embrace failure if you want to skate) and he has hit skateparks in every city and town we have travelled to.

Skateboarding is a community based sport and we hope the Portsmouth City Council approves the building of one today.

Thanks for your support and thank you to Seamus Durkin and his crew for spearheading this effort!

Joe and Michelle Flynn

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 163.116.135.114



**From:** [Jane Roberts via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Dedicated PB courts on Junkins Ave  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:08:44 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Jane Roberts (janeroberts55@gmail.com) on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 19:08:42

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address: 5 Seapoint Road Kittery Point, ME

comments: I wholeheartedly support the Pickleball Court construction project. Through this game I have become familiar with downtown Portsmouth and now buy my groceries and frequent other local businesses as a result of these courts. Playing Pickleball on Junkins Ave is a great way to exercise, socialize and contribute to the Portsmouth economy.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 108.49.249.136

**From:** [Todd Shaver via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Dedicated Pickleball Courts  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 8:38:24 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Todd Shaver (Todd@BullMarket.com) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 07:38:22

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address: 2 Captains Way

comments: Hi Councilors - I am a former tennis player; used to play six days a week; tournaments; highest ranking was 5 in the Middle Atlantic. Have reached the big 70 and haven't played tennis in four years. Pickleball is so much more fun, and you can play for 2 hours without getting tired! Thank you for doing this. When all is said and done, this will be remembered as the greatest amenity ever!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.223.125

**From:** [Ken Goldman via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Delay of Islington Street Corridor Reconstruction Project Phase 2 (Dover to Congress) to FY27  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 3:48:16 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Ken Goldman (barbken@comcast.net) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 14:48:11  
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address: 271 Islington Street, Portsmouth

comments: First, I would like to say thank you to all of you who had responded to my earlier email on this subject, and to the entire City Council for an opportunity to speak at the Islington Street Corridor Phase 2 Work Session last Monday, March 8th.

In case I cannot make it to the City Council meeting on Monday, the 15th, I would like to once again share my thoughts on this matter.

As my wife and I were driving into Portsmouth along Islington Street the other day, we were both struck by how attractive and inviting, Islington Street looks along the stretch where Phase 1A has been completed. Sadly, this attractive and inviting look ends abruptly and then, Islington Street starts to look shabby.

When I spoke on Monday I talked about the poor condition of the sidewalk in front of Goodwin Park (I had taken some photos, but the webpage does allow me to attach them, so let me know if you are interested in seeing the photos). The sidewalk in front of Goodwin Park is somewhat representative of most of the sidewalks along Islington Street, yet it is in better shape than many of them. These sidewalks are largely cracked and crumbling asphalt. This is one of the factors that give Islington Street a shabby appearance.

Many people in the West End along Islington Street, and elsewhere, are showing that they take pride in their community by working to approve the appearance of their property. Proceeding with Phase 2 in FY 22 would show a similar pride and commitment from the City. I believe it would greatly benefit the City, and the people and merchants along Islington Street, if the section from Dover Street to Congress Street were as attractive and inviting as the segment completed in Phase 1A. This would help merge and blend the West End with downtown in much the same way as other sections of Portsmouth already merge and blend in with downtown.

I would also like to remind the Council that planning for this project began in 1997. While I am aware that there is a lot of competition for the funding contained in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), I would hope that priority would be given to a project that has been on the books for almost 25 years.

Finally, it is important to consider that we have a very old water main running down Islington Street. This water main is on borrowed time, and it is only a question of when, not if, it will suffer a major casualty. Preventative maintenance is always easier, and frequently cheaper, than, emergency repairs.

I respectfully request that the City Council vote to include funding in the CIP to proceed with Phase 2 in FY 22.

Thank you,

Ken Goldman

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit  
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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.235.12.25

**From:** [Byron Matto via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Demolition Committee  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 11:20:45 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Byron Matto (bmatto@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 10:20:43  
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address: 17 Fields Rd

comments: I'm writing in regards to Councilor Kennedy's motion:

"\*Demolition Committee (Sample motion "move a report back from the Planning Board, Historic District Commission, and Demolition Committee on how to improve the Demolition Committee. This will include but not be limited to deterrents for the demolition of Portsmouth buildings, fines for misconduct, and public comments at meetings. The expectation would be a report back at the April 5th Council meeting)".

I heard Councilor Kennedy reference this committee with concerns that is was "a mess". I took the time to watch the meeting I think she was referring to. At this meeting a property - 261 Aldrich - was the subject of much discussion as the building had been all but demolished without the committee's involvement.

I was perplexed as I watched the meeting because it was becoming apparent that the ordinance as it is written does not ultimately cannot prevent the demolition of a building. The ordinance - depending on the date of construction of that being demolished - has varying degrees of delays and meetings but does not in the end allow for the prevention of a building being demolished. My assumption is that this is the case likely because there is no legal authority for the city to stop a property owner from demolishing what is theirs.

In reading the ordinance something else stuck out - a seemingly arbitrary count of 50 years separates 2 branches of how the committee will operate. A building older than this count is subject to greater delays and meetings than a "younger" building. The implication of this mechanic is that anything older than 50 years is more important or more valuable to the community than something younger. It's not based on the material, the function of the building, the architect, the style ... purely a function of age. Why this stuck out to me is that we are actively protecting buildings that are likely less efficient and built from potentially more environmentally hazardous materials (lead, asbestos, etc..). Houses built in the 80s/90s and certainly more recently are more likely to have higher values of insulation and the material is likely to be safer.

Reading the motion from Councilor Kennedy it appears to me that her intent to give the demolition committee more "teeth". To place a greater burden on homeowners trying to manifest their dream in our city. While her intentions may be noble, I think the result of this would effect negatively the people who can afford it the least.

Imagine you are a young family/couple who have scraped every last penny to make a down payment on a small starter home. Your dream is to live in Portsmouth, maybe you grew up here, maybe your family is in the area. All you can afford is a 50s ranch that is on it's last leg. You move in, your family is starting to grow ... you are willing to put in the time and sweat to build equity in your community and stay in your neighborhood. Maybe this means tearing down a "significant" portion of the structure because it no longer meats code and has hazardous material, maybe this means you need to move out for some months to allow for the renovations. This burden on your family is significant.

The direction of this ordinance and the already renowned Portsmouth Building department is the stuff of nightmares for families like the one in the scenario above. Mounting delays, fines, and further deterrents will not ultimately deter buildings from being demolished ... it will deter young families from attempting to build their lives in Portsmouth to begin with. I know young families who already have crossed Portsmouth of their list because of the

existence of this board, the HDC, and the mounting sense of entitlement around pressuring others to build as you would have things built.

I beg for the council to see the through lens of preserving community and not just buildings.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.232.211.32

**From:** [Denyse Richter via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Islington - West End Project  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 8:24:17 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Denyse Richter (richter5@comcast.net) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 07:24:15  
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address: 29 Rockingham St

comments: Hello,

I am writing to urge you to keep the West End project on track and stop "kicking it down the road." Please finish what has been started. What does delaying do except increase the cost? This project has been rescheduled several times. I used to be on the CIP committee in Hampton and dates should mean something. The city needs to honor its commitment to this project and complete the job. Many new owners bought properties with the promise of a completed and beautified Islington which is a gateway to town. Please do the right thing and stop de-prioritizing this project.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.142.129.90

**From:** [Manuel Garganta via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Islington Street  
**Date:** Saturday, March 13, 2021 3:52:36 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Manuel Garganta (Souzagar@aol.com) on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 14:52:34

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address: 471 Colonial Drive Portsmouth, NH

comments: Being a resident who uses Islington Street to Access the downtown, I feel there isn't a good reason to postpone finishing that problem. We seem to keep kicking this down the road. Considering that postponing this project is going to increase the costs it does not make fiscal sense.

We are looking to postpone Islington yet we are looking to add bike lanes and sidewalks to Peverly Hill Road. ????

Let's finish one project before we start another.

Thank you for listening

Regards,

Manny Garganta

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.6.28



**From:** [Mark Sternbergerger via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Islington Street Corridor (Dover to Congress) Delays  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 9:22:18 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Mark Sternbergerger (markits@comcast.net) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 08:22:16  
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address: Unit 10

comments: Councilors:

Thank you for your continued support to mitigate our public safety risks associated with the incomplete Islington Street Corridor Reconstruction Final Phase (Dover to Congress). The project has unbelievably been recommended for yet another delay along its over quarter century journey! Rumor has it the City has proposed this not be completed until 2027, incredibility making it nearly 30 years after originally committed!

My understanding is daily average vehicles per day now routinely exceed 16,000 (the highest of any of our city egresses). Additionally, no bike path or safe sidewalks exist for the rapidly rising volume of bicyclists and pedestrians commuting between the new housing explosion we planned for them in the West End and their services industry jobs downtown. Add the facts of an extremely narrow roadway without shoulders, inappropriate and totally unsafe on street parking, commercial truck traffic, and Apr-Oct exponentially rising incidence of large gangs of reckless un-policed behavior by motorcycles non-compliant with NH State law of 92 decibels ( HB516) makes for a very unsafe residential neighborhood with a multitude of serious public safety hazards.

Considering the longer we delay, the more expensive this project becomes especially due to the costs of new money now rising from the unprecedented new levels of national debt taxpayers were recently gifted for which OMB forecasts yearly interest payment to be 2x our annual GDP by 2030, now is the time to lock in low interest infrastructure bonds and the American Recovery Act of 2021 infrastructure grants as rates are already beginning to rise. Not to mention we are now on borrowed time with our 130 year old water main!

Please know the Islington Creek Neighborhood has been canvassed and is supportive and appreciative of you, Councilors Kennedy, McEachern, and especially Councilor Trace for her proactive efforts, and others concerned about safety liabilities being incurred by the City and working to mitigate the cost and safety risks already realized to complete the necessary risk avoidance measures with implementation of the final phase in 2022 as previously promised by without further delays. Thank you so much for all the great work making Portsmouth the best we can be!

Please forward to our Councilors and City Manager, as well include in the public record for the next City Council meeting on this topic.

Sincerely,

Mark Sternberger

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.225.63

**From:** [Charlie and Karla Armenti via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Islington Street Corridor Phase 2 Work  
**Date:** Saturday, March 13, 2021 11:55:09 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Charlie and Karla Armenti (armeca@comcast.net) on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 10:55:07  
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address: 30 Cornwall St

comments: We live across the street from Goodwin Park in a 14 unit Condo Assoc. I am actually the President of our Assoc.

My wife and I frequently walk the sidewalks to/from Downtown and to/from the West End.  
That is why we moved and decided to retire in Portsmouth, 4 yrs ago.

As we walk towards past Hanaford's, we can't say enough about how nice the sidewalks and lights are now that Phase 1 has been completed.

I would like to convey our support and request that our City Council does everything within it's power to keep the Islington Street Corridor Phase 2 project on schedule for FY22.

Delaying the completion of this project to FY27 would be a major setback.

I think everyone agrees important it is to proactively maintain our water and gas supply lines and how nice the West End is looking now that Phase 1 has been completed.

Let's keep this going and complete Phase 2 on schedule for FY22.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.159.246.51

**From:** [Steven Spinney via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Islington Street Corridor Project  
**Date:** Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:43:42 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Steven Spinney (4spinn@comcast.net) on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 09:43:39  
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address: 281 Islington Street, Portsmouth, NH, USA

comments: We write to urge the city council to move the stage 1B and 2 plan back to 2022. The West End is one of the main gateways into our city and should be made beautiful not only for the residents of the West End, but for the visitors who come to our wonderful city. Honestly, the West End seems to be treated like the ugly step child and that shouldn't be. We've been patient and understood the wisdom of starting at the far end of Islington and working back to the downtown to insure the projects timely completion. The current proposed delay to 2027 is unfair to the businesses from Hannaford to Maplewood. They would thrive if there was a more safe and pleasant walking path. The current conditions are unsafe. In addition, the infrastructure is old and needs to be addressed before a big problem presents itself emergently. Please let's complete what was started 20+ years ago.

Thank you,

Steven & Sharon Spinney

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.30.229.172

**From:** [Stephen J Lichtenstein via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Bike Lanes the way they are  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 7:15:23 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Stephen J Lichtenstein (sjlich@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 06:15:21

-----  
address: 35 WIBIRD ST

comments: We are very much in FAVOR of keeping the bike lanes the way they are currently. We live a block from Middle Street and the traffic has been slowed down considerably since the lanes were established. In our humble opinion, Middle Street is definitely safer since the lanes were introduced. We see this every day. PLEASE DEFEAT THE PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE EXISTING BIKE LANES. Please follow the guidance of the experts, consultants, and SABR.

Thanks You,  
Stephen Lichtenstein & Karen Jacoby  
35 Wibird Street, Portsmouth

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.17.4.223

**From:** [John B. Moeschler via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle St Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 10:24:34 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
John B. Moeschler ([john.b.moeschler@dartmouth.edu](mailto:john.b.moeschler@dartmouth.edu)) on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 09:24:32

-----  
address: 139 South Street, Unit e

comments: Dear Councilors,

I am writing to oppose the Kennedy and Huda motion to change the Middle St bike lanes. I am not in favor in jeopardizing the safety of bike riders and any changes not made by professional traffic engineers seem to raise such risks. Kennedy and Huda (and none of the Councilors, as far as I know) do not have special expertise in these matters. Further, they are choosing to ignore the input of the City's contracted experts on this matter, from what I understand. Please vote against this motion.

I favor expansion of bike lanes and pedestrian areas in Portsmouth, not reducing them.

I favor bike lanes for reasons of physical health, mental health, environmental health and the general pleasantness of the experience for those of us living in Portsmouth.

Please work to expand the bike lanes and walking areas of our lovely city.

Thank you.

John B Moeschler

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.100.61.97

**From:** [Steve Cronin via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle St. Bike Paths  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 9:49:21 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Steve Cronin (scronin55@comcast.net) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 08:49:19  
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address: 77 Summit Ave

comments: Please let common sense rule and eliminate these ridiculous bike paths. One of the worst ideas ever in Portsmouth and I've lived here for 66 years! I travel this road everyday multiple times and rarely see any bike traffic...Not too hard to figure out why. The bike travel stats are just plain false. Shame to let such a small percentage of our population dictate policy on what used to be one of the most historical and picturesque roadways in our city. I shudder to think about the results of the next crash due to this mess and believe me, it's coming! Thanks for your attention

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.149.193.171

**From:** [john e Durkin via FormMail.com](mailto:john.e.durkin@burnsbryant.com)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle Street Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Saturday, March 13, 2021 2:13:52 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
john e Durkin (jdurkin@burnsbryant.com) on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 13:13:49

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address: 564 MIDDLE ST

comments: My name is John Durkin and I live at 564 Middle Street, the block between Madison and Cass Streets, where the parking has been moved away from the curb in favor of the bike lane. I am writing to ask that the Council adopt a solution that moves the parking back to the curb. There are three issues that favor this direction: Safety, Utility, and Aesthetics.

In regard to safety, the Council should take into consider the safety of both bicyclists and motorists. The section of the roadway closest to the curb is the least desirable riding surface. The lanes are frequently filled with leaves and other debris and the sewer grates create additional safety concerns. The seasonal use of the bollards is problematic as well. If the bollards are necessary for the safety of the bike lanes yet are only able to be used seasonally, can the existing bike lane be considered safe when the bollards are not able to be there? Safety of motorist is equally important. The current configuration reduces the travel portion of the southbound roadway to the point of making things dangerous for motorists. This results in traffic frequently crossing the center lane and it is very difficult to exit from a car that is parked in this unusual traffic configuration. The sound of vehicles smashing into the bollards that can be heard all summer and that southbou!

nd traffic still occasionally stops behind the cars parked in front of my house demonstrate the oddity of this traffic and parking configuration.

While removing the remaining parking from Middle Street might sound like a great idea for those who do not depend on these parking spaces, the reality is that the few remaining parking spots are almost always in use and there is frequently competition for those spots. Prior to the bike lanes we had approximately twenty parking spots on my block; now there are only four unrestricted spaces. It would be unfair to our neighborhood to lose any more of these scarce parking spaces.

In addition to safety, utility is important as well. I have made a point to keep an eye out for how many people use the bike lane and there are very few. Perhaps this is due to the oddity of the design, and the issues of leaves, debris, and sewer grates mentioned above. While I am a biker, I do not use this bike lane because I don't feel safe in it.

Aesthetics must also be taken into consideration. Middle Street is in the historic district where we must seek special permission to do things like change the size of a window, add a skylight, or install a fence. One would never be given permission to clad a house in vinyl siding or install a plastic fence, yet we have plastic bollards lining both sides of the street half the year.

I am pro-bike and pro-bike lane and have no objection to a bike lane on Middle Street, but the current design is deeply flawed. Thank you for your consideration.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.233.86.83



**From:** [Gerald Duffy via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle Street Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Sunday, March 14, 2021 5:01:50 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Gerald Duffy (Gduffy44@gmail.com) on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 16:01:44

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address: 428 Middle Street, Unit 3

comments: Mr Mayor and Councilors:

I have no idea how you'll vote on Monday night regarding the motion to move parked vehicles back to the curb on Middle Street, but you should know you will be dismantling the first stretch of truly buffered and safest stretch of urban bike lane in the state. The fact that it is the only lane of this kind in the state is actually something we should be proud of.

You will be replacing a very safe option with a less-safe configuration. The City staff, national standards, and nationally recognized professionals have repeatedly told you this. It's not a matter of mere opinion. It's not a matter, like the mayor suggests, that if his family survived it everyone else should.

A cyclist was killed in Durham riding on exactly the configuration you are proposing. A reminder of the details:

“DURHAM, N.H. —

A 58-year-old bicyclist died Sunday night after crashing his bicycle into a car door, according to authorities. Durham police said John Kavanagh was riding his bike on Main Street in a marked bike lane when a driver, who was legally parked on the side of the road, opened his driver's-side door. Aug 19, 2014”

At it's core, this issue has never been about whether or not we have to repay grant money. It's simply that, in spite of all professional advice to the contrary, you want to move the lanes to a less safe option. In other words, go backwards. You will, of course, have to live with your decision. I just hope that no-one, like John Kavanagh, has to die for it.

Gerald Duffy

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.233.87.81

**From:** [Christer Ericsson via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle street bike lanes  
**Date:** Sunday, March 14, 2021 7:36:47 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Christer Ericsson (christer.ern@gmail.com) on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 18:36:45

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address: 99 Gates street

comments: Listen to professionals. Protected bike lanes work, I canâ€™t believe people would consider moving the lanes back adjacent to traffic.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.233.86.174

**From:** [Peter Flax Cass via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** PB court proposal  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 12:09:10 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Peter Flax Cass (pfcass@gmail.com) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 10:14:20

-----  
address: 33 Hunking St

comments: Hi Again -

I wrote earlier in support of this proposal, but I'd like to add the Mr. Bruinooges' letter is spot-on.

I played squash many times a week for 40 years -- until I wore out my hip, which was replaced last month. Now, PB is about as much as my doctor will let me do. I believe I'm typical of many people of my demographic who are or will be transitioning to PB, a less physically demanding sport, in the upcoming years.

Arthur's other points are equally compelling and so I urge you to approve and move quickly forward with the project.

Peter Cass

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.233.80.203

**From:** [Joany Lincoln via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickle Ball Courts  
**Date:** Sunday, March 14, 2021 8:37:24 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Joany Lincoln (joanylincoln@yahoo.com) on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 19:37:22

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address: 141 Mill Pond Way, Unit 1 Portsmouth

comments: Thank you for the careful consideration that is being given to the possibility of having pickle ball courts at the South Mill Pond Recreational Area. I wrote last week and am writing again to say that I feel this would be an excellent move in support of the retirement age community. At the moment there are quite a few of us lot of us baby boomers, and pickle ball is certainly one way I've found to try and stay healthy and positive. Many of us were formerly quite serious tennis players, and relieved to find a similar, but less physically demanding sport. Hopefully the upcoming generations of retired tennis players can already be comforted by the fact that there is a fine sport waiting for them in their next stage of life! Upwards and onwards all together as we continue to make the most of a wonderful Portsmouth.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.216.200

**From:** [Neil Hiltunen via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickle ball courts  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:41:02 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Neil Hiltunen (doc2th@comcast.net) on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 19:41:00  
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address: 1 Woodridge Lane, North Hampton

comments: To the City Council and Recreation Department

I reiterate the letter by Arthur Bruinooge:

Thank you for devoting so much time evaluating the proposal we submitted to convert 2 tennis courts into 8 PB courts. I would like to address some of the issues that were discussed last night.

It seems that the biggest concern is about securing input from tennis players. You heard from some of them last night and they were supportive of this project.

Many of the PB players were tennis players in their younger years and many current tennis players also play pickleball. Converting two tennis courts actually creates more available courts for tennis players since at peak times the large number of PB players take 4 or even all 6 tennis courts. Both PB and tennis players are waiting. Now 4 tennis courts can be used exclusively for tennis. In addition please note that there are over 70 public and private tennis court locations in the greater Portsmouth area and the City has 20 public courts. There are plenty of courts available for tennis but not one single regulation PB court in Portsmouth. There are significantly more PB players in Portsmouth than tennis players and that number will only grow in the future.

The infrequent situations raised by the HS tennis coach can be easily solved a number of different ways. As noted in the meeting, his concerns are a school athletic issue not a recreation department issue.

Multiple use of courts was raised but PB requires a lower and narrower net and a much smaller footprint than tennis. Multiple court lines create confusion. Badminton courts (doubles) however are the same size as PB, only with higher nets. My neighbor plays badminton, has a portable net and is excited about this project as it gives her a place to play this sport.

Some callers mentioned locating the courts elsewhere. The South Mill Pond location is perfect since this is a highly visible location that is close to downtown. The cost to locate elsewhere would be significantly greater. Constructing 8 new courts at another location can cost in excess of \$320,000. The courts we selected for conversion (opposite from the basketball courts) have just enough room to create 8 PB courts. The other courts at the park and at other tennis locations are in smaller areas and only support 6 converted courts.

Parking was also brought up. Many of the PB players walk or ride bikes to this park during warmer weather. I don't see a parking issue for recreational play. Tournament play instructions can direct players to public parking facilities so that problem is easily addressed.

Regulation courts are required to hold tournaments which will be a draw to Portsmouth and a financial benefit to downtown. Numerous people commented on the the financial benefits last night. Completing this project this spring will help our business community and help with your efforts to reopen Portsmouth in 2021.

If you're looking for a recreational project that is quick, inexpensive, benefits the largest number of Portsmouth residents, financially benefits the local business community and helps open up Portsmouth in 2021, this is it and the time is now. Please vote to approve this project at the next meeting scheduled for Monday.

Thank you  
Neil Hiltunen, D.M.D.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.253.214.211

**From:** [Michelle Chooljian via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** PickleBall Court Additions  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 9:44:07 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Michelle Chooljian (michelle.choo4@gmail.com) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 08:44:05

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address: 4 Bourn Avenue, Hampton, NH 03842

comments: Good morning: I am so happy to contribute in support of this wonderful, healthy, multigenerational sport. Thank you. As a former Tennis Player and current Pickleball Player living in this area and Florida, I have seen an enormous need for Pickleball courts. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports available to not only the largest (Boomer) groups of our time but for the future generations that are enjoying the sport. Currently, there are National Tournaments being hosted all over the country and it won't be long, in my opinion, before it is a sanctioned NCAA sport that will need high schools to feed it. So, the courts will not only fill a current need but also the future need. I am not only in support of converting Tennis Courts, but also adding a designated Pickleball Complex that will be able to host Pickleball Tournaments. Which could develop into an additional revenue stream for Portsmouth & its Schools.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 138.162.8.57

**From:** [Kevin Semprini via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts at the South Playgrounds  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 11:09:24 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Kevin Semprini (ksemprini@comcast.net) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 10:09:22

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address: 300 New Castle Ave., Portsmouth

comments: Good morning distinguished members of the City Council. It's been a week and hopefully you've been able to digest the proposal made last Monday and have respectfully come to the conclusion that the addition of Pickleball Courts at the South Playgrounds represent a win, win for everyone who plans on visiting and recreating at this park. Knowing that Pickleball appeals to all ages and has become especially popular to those 50 years of age and older, your vote supporting these Courts would be a vote to encourage your constituents to get outside, exercise, stay active, and participate in a sport that's going to be around for long, long time.

I have to laugh, but there is a Pickleball invasion blanketing the New England area. On WBZ this past Friday morning, they did a piece on a Indoor Pickleball facility, appropriately named Pickles. This is one of four facilities scheduled to be built in MA.

You're now faced with a golden opportunity to not only keep revenue from leaving our City, but by creating these outdoor, tournament ready courts, we'll be attracting players and visitors to come, play and hopefully find the opportunity to visit and patronize our downtown businesses.

I appeal to you for your support because financially and economically speaking, it's the right time, place and opportunity to vote in favor of developing this park.

Thanks for your time and what you represent to the City of Portsmouth!

Kevin Semprini

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.233.85.43



**From:** [Carol Clark via FormMail.com](mailto:Carol.Clark@formmail.com)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 12:09:14 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Carol Clark (Carol.clark1@comcast.net) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 10:15:57

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address: 28 Rockingham St

comments: To City Councilors

I would like to address some of the concerns that were brought up by City Councilors in the last meeting

I know that one of the major concerns was the fact that councilors wanted more time to hear from the tennis players

Before we presented this idea to Tom Kozikowski in Sept, we had already reached out to the recreational tennis players that we knew (many have since converted to playing Pickleball) and their response was "Great - it will free up 4 courts for tennis".

Right now - all 6 courts are filled with pickleball players (24 players) - with as many as 12 or more players waiting to rotate in .

Converting 2 tennis courts to 8 pickleball courts would allow 32 players to play at the same time - with fewer players waiting to play

This would allow 4 courts to be available for tennis players

So it only makes sense that a recreational tennis player would support this conversion

Probably a good reason why there was no opposition from tennis players on the Zoom call - in fact there were 2 tennis players that spoke in favor of this idea !

The letter that was sent from the PHS tennis coach re: the need for 6 courts for the 6 singles matches (that are played 4 times in the season) , seems to be Athletic Dept problem -not a Recreation problem. Certainly not a reason to

deny 250 plus pickleball players an opportunity to have dedicated courts . There will be 8 tennis courts still available

for the tennis team (4 @ the High School and 4 at South Mill Pond)

The fact that the we are fortunate to already have, in place, the infrastructure (drainage etc...) for these new Pickleball courts is a bonus . We are asking to repaint - add regulation nets - for a cost of \$30,000.00 This seems a reasonable ask , considering how popular this sport has become

The benefits to the residents of Portsmouth- the vibrancy and economic impact that this could bring to the reopening of downtown this summer - is short money and cannot be overlooked

Please vote to make this happen this spring - so we all can enjoy Recreation opportunities in our great city !

Thank you for your consideration  
Carol Clark

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.149.192.241



**From:** [Bob Andelman via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball courts  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 1:45:23 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Bob Andelman (bbandelman@yahoo.com) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 12:45:22

-----  
address: 3 Boyan Place

comments: I support the project of converting two tennis courts to 8 pickleball courts for all the reasons mentioned  
in prior hearings and comments.  
Bob Andelman

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.222.71

**From:** [Arthur Bruinooge via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:12:39 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Arthur Bruinooge (Abruinooge@me.com) on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 08:12:36  
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address: 291 Islington St

comments: To the City Council and Recreation Department

Thank you for devoting so much time evaluating the proposal we submitted to convert 2 tennis courts into 8 PB courts. I would like to address some of the issues that were discussed last night.

It seems that the biggest concern is about securing input from tennis players. You heard from some of them last night and they were supportive of this project.

Many of the PB players were tennis players in their younger years and many current tennis players also play pickleball. Converting two tennis courts actually creates more available courts for tennis players since at peak times the large number of PB players take 4 or even all 6 tennis courts. Both PB and tennis players are waiting. Now 4 tennis courts can be used exclusively for tennis. In addition please note that there are over 70 public and private tennis court locations in the greater Portsmouth area and the City has 20 public courts. There are plenty of courts available for tennis but not one single regulation PB court in Portsmouth. There are significantly more PB players in Portsmouth than tennis players and that number will only grow in the future.

The infrequent situations raised by the HS tennis coach can be easily solved a number of different ways. As noted in the meeting, his concerns are a school athletic issue not a recreation department issue.

Multiple use of courts was raised but PB requires a lower and narrower net and a much smaller footprint than tennis. Multiple court lines create confusion. Badminton courts (doubles) however are the same size as PB, only with higher nets. My neighbor plays badminton, has a portable net and is excited about this project as it gives her a place to play this sport.

Some callers mentioned locating the courts elsewhere. The South Mill Pond location is perfect since this is a highly visible location that is close to downtown. The cost to locate elsewhere would be significantly greater. Constructing 8 new courts at another location can cost in excess of \$320,000. The courts we selected for conversion (opposite from the basketball courts) have just enough room to create 8 PB courts. The other courts at the park and at other tennis locations are in smaller areas and only support 6 converted courts.

Parking was also brought up. Many of the PB players walk or ride bikes to this park during warmer weather. I don't see a parking issue for recreational play. Tournament play instructions can direct players to public parking facilities so that problem is easily addressed.

Regulation courts are required to hold tournaments which will be a draw to Portsmouth and a financial benefit to downtown. Numerous people commented on the the financial benefits last night. Completing this project this spring will help our business community and help with your efforts to reopen Portsmouth in 2021.

If your looking for a recreational project that is quick, inexpensive, benefits the largest number of Portsmouth residents, financially benefits the local business community and helps open up Portsmouth in 2021, this is it and the time is now. Please vote to approve this project at the next Meeting scheduled for Monday.

Thank you

Arthur Bruinooge

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.30.229.1

**From:** [Robert R LeGros via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball courts  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 9:58:04 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Robert R LeGros (boblegros@aol.com) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 08:58:01  
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address: 579 Sagamore Avenue, Unit 49

comments: Dear Council Members: I am a regular and very frequent pickleball player at the South Mill Pond, I live in Portsmouth and I totally agree with everything Art Bruinooge has set forth in his letter to the Council this week in support of converting 2 tennis courts to 8 pickleball courts. Thanks for you careful consideration of this big improvement to Portsmouth recreation facilities - at a small fraction of the cost of alternatives.

Bob LeGros

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 74.218.140.98

**From:** [Anne Schwartzman via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball courts  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 8:15:32 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Anne Schwartzman (akey5@nycap.rr.com) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 07:15:30  
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address: 118 Spinnaker Way

comments: I was an avid tennis player for over 30 years of my adult life. I really appreciate public facilities for sports and other recreation. Injuries had me sitting out for some parts of those years, but pickleball is ideally suited for me now. The South Mill Pond facility has 6 tennis courts and many times 3, 4, or more, courts are filled with pickleball players (4 on each court). I play for up to 2 hours in a round robin setting.

Dedicating 8 courts from 2, is a win for Portsmouth pickleball players, and also for the tennis players. Shining a light on this newer sport will increase the number of people able to enjoy it. It is easier for children to learn, and can be incorporated into the middle school curriculum.

I can ride my bike to the courts or even catch a Coast public bus into town if I feel parking might be an issue (though it never has been).

As a tennis player, I support converting 2 (out of 6) tennis courts into 8 pickleball courts. Thank you for considering your constituents' needs and wants.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 174.58.101.77

**From:** [Judy Miller via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts  
**Date:** Saturday, March 13, 2021 10:46:48 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Judy Miller (jamiller37@gmail.com) on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 09:46:46

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address: 77 Hanover Street, Unit #7

comments: I have played Pickleball at the SouthMill Pond location ever since the courts were lined for pickleball. I have witnessed a growing number of players who enjoy this fastest growing sport. As a group, we have always shared the courts with tennis players. Having 8 pickleball courts will make available 4 tennis courts. I walk to the courts, and others ride bikes, parking has never been an issue. The City has 20 public tennis courts but not one single regulation Pickleball court. There are significantly more pickleball players in Portsmouth than tennis players. The South Mill Pond is the perfect location since it is highly visible and close to the downtown. Tournaments can be held as a financial benefit to downtown. Tournament play instructions can direct players to the public parking facilities.  
Pickleball is an easy sport to learn and it benefits the largest number of Portsmouth residents, financially benefits the local business community, and offers social interaction for all ages.  
Please vote to approve this project. Thank you, Judy Miller

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.147.240.9



**From:** [Kathryn Kaknes via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball courts  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 9:59:36 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Kathryn Kaknes (Kathy.kaknes@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 08:59:34

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address: 128 Porpoise Way

comments: Dear Council Members,

I'm writing to ask you to support the proposal to convert 2 tennis courts to 8 pickleball courts. As a former tennis player, I can attest that the additional lines for pickleball on tennis courts can cause some confusion. I now play pickleball exclusively and believe that designating 2 courts as pickleball only will alleviate the crowding and wait time being experienced by both pickleball and tennis players. Having 8 pickleball courts allows up to 32 people at a time to play while only taking up 2 courts. Currently, it required 4 courts to accommodate that number of players. I think other residents have covered the pros and cons more thoroughly than I'm doing here, but want to add my name and voice to those asking for this change. Thank you for the consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully,  
Kathryn Kaknes

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.159.246.166

**From:** [Bonnie Gates via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** pickleball courts  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:51:01 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Bonnie Gates (bonnieg1003@gmail.com) on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 19:50:59

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address: 571 POST RD, Greenland NH

comments: Thank you for your consideration to modify the Portsmouth tennis courts to accommodate the growing Pickleball playing community. We are dedicated and committed and gravitate to the excellent facilities in Portsmouth.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.235.9.19

**From:** [Sollee Alison via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball proposal  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 11:43:21 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Sollee Alison (amsollee@comcast.net) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 10:43:17  
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address: 558 Union St

comments: I would support the detailed pickleball proposal and really feel the South Pond location to be ideal. As a sometimes tennis player I have never had trouble sharing the courts with pickleball players; Most of the time there are 1 or 2 or more courts free. Regarding parking there has never been an issue finding a space in the lot plus I often walk or bike down anyway since the courts are so close. A lot of people have put a lot of personal time into this well-designed proposal and, as Portsmouth residents my husband and I would love the idea of our tax money supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of the pickle ball players.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 174.196.206.173

**From:** [Barbara Franzoso via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 5:32:54 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Barbara Franzoso (dogpga@aol.com) on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 16:32:52

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address: 579 Sagamore Ave.

comments: I watched last night's meeting on Zoom, and while I tried to speak, I did was not visible on the Mayors screen.

I wanted to assure Councilor Kennedy that we did indeed involve the tennis community in preparing our presentation and 90% of them thought that having 4 dedicated tennis courts was great news.

As a Portsmouth taxpayer for the last 50 years, I can think of no better use of recreation funds than spending \$31,000 on an existing structure that will allow 32 people to utilize this on an hourly basis. There were those that suggested that we build a complex elsewhere, including 2 proposed courts at the new Senior Center. Rest assured that for any of these options you would be expending far more than the \$31,000 we are proposing.

I urge you to pass this at your next meeting.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.46.222.206

**From:** [robin.valeri via FormMail.com](mailto:robin.valeri@kw.com)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** pickleball  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:11:42 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
robin.valeri (rvaleri@kw.com) on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 18:11:39

-----  
address: 871 Islington Street, Suite 3A

comments: Hello, I am definitely in favor of converting the 2 tennis courts into 8 pickleball courts. We love to play the game and feel it would add value to Portsmouth. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.  
Robin Valeri

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.217.126

**From:** [stephen schulten via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed pickleball courts  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 7:55:56 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
stephen schulten (Sbschulten@gmail.com) on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 06:55:49

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address: 18 Cote Dr

comments: I had the pleasure of teaching physical education at Portsmouth's Little Harbor School from 1990-2012. In that capacity I promoted activities that could be pursued for an individual's life time. Pickleball is played by anyone from age five to ninety five and is rapidly gaining in popularity..I fully endorse the proposed conversion of two tennis courts into eight pickleball courts.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.61.72.21

**From:** [Jackie Cali-Pitts via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** recreation  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 5:33:14 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jackie Cali-Pitts (cali0917@aol.com) on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 16:33:06

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address: 40 Bedford Way

comments: Iam going to suggest that a public hearing on tonights recreation department suggestion be made. I would also say sit has been years since an election for chair has been held.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 75.68.180.157

**From:** [Laura Kennedy via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Reopening services and schools  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 6:08:47 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Laura Kennedy (lauraskennedy@gmail.com) on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 17:08:45

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address: 66 Aldrich Rd

comments: Dear City Council,

I am writing you tonight to urge you to table all other discussions at meetings (bike lanes etc) until the more immediate needs of the city's residents have been met - including reopening the library, organizing and publishing rec programs and most importantly fully funding and reopening the schools.

It is hard not to look at surrounding towns (in NH and MA) and see their kids going back full time (some for months now!) and their robust rec offerings and their fully functioning libraries and not be jealous and partly ashamed of Portsmouth. Newburyport has their kids back in school for 4 full days/week. Kittery's library has been fully open since September (with masks, distancing and counting how many people are inside) with success. Exeter and Oyster River Rec sites are full with programming for their kids. How has Portsmouth fallen so far behind? Cases are dropping, vaccination rates are rising - it is time to base these decisions on fact not fear and reopen services for the physical and mental well being of our residents.

Thank you,  
Laura Kennedy

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.219.200



**From:** [Drew DiPasquale via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Save the bike lanes  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 5:46:24 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Drew DiPasquale (drew.dipasquale@gmail.com) on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 16:46:22

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address: 80 Fields Rd

comments: Hi,

I am a resident of this fine city and I am also an avid cyclist. I enjoy riding my bike all around this city. Cycling in Portsmouth connects me to my city. It's how I get around in our city and it's how many others do too. The city does not have enough bike lanes as is. Its frankly dangerous to ride in certain areas of the city. I risk my life when I ride down Islington - its chaos. I depend on Middle St bike lanes for my safety and for a nice low anxiety ride. To remove or alter these bike paths would be a reckless and political move. Your job is to think of safety - that's at least why we elected some of you. I used to live in Boston and while its also not a great bike friendly place - some parts of the city are tremendously enjoyable and SAFE to ride on. Those parts of the city had the bike lane configuration similar to that of Middle St. They didnt take the bike lanes like that away b/c a few residents "didn't like them" or b/c a few councilors "believed it was inconveni!

ent" ...no - they listened to science and experts and put in the necessary precautions to protect their citizens. Bicycle friendly cities are the cities people want to live in and visit. We need to make this priority and not listen to our "feelings" about the science of traffic and bicycle safety. Please do what's right and listen to the people that spend their entire careers on this type of thing. I pay a lot of taxes for my little plot of Portsmouth town - I will be watching too on how this council respects or abuses my tax dollars. Wasting a grant and repaying it to satisfy a small amount of complaints would be an abuse on my tax dollars. Please keep this lanes as is, continue toward making the improvements recommended by Toole and use this time to think about where else you can add bike lanes in this city. Bikes help people tour and make connections in a new town. Make this city a bicycle safe zone and more riders will enjoy it and make this city thrive. Thanks for read!

ing this

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.219.244

**From:** [Shan Zuidema via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** School Budget vs. Amenities such as a new sports complex  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 7:59:23 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Shan Zuidema (soggyheron-ols@yahoo.com) on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 06:59:20

-----  
address: 126 Burkitt St

comments: My understanding is that there are discussions about cutting the budgets to the schools - which would potentially lead to job loss including elementary teachers and reduced hours for paraprofessionals.

It is also my understanding that there is currently a consideration to invest more in a sports complex. This seems like another example in a long line of examples of the city prioritizing luxury amenities (such as the extent to which the Cutts Cove park and Market Street gateway were [over]-appointed).

It is mind-boggling that the city cannot find the resources to fund our schools who have done everything they can to pull families through this pandemic, but the city can then continue investing in such amenities. We have good schools, and fantastic people in them. Our schools have to be above resource prioritization - they should be our core value - and resourced accordingly. Maybe sometimes that should require funding for amenities and luxuries not be provided.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 75.68.181.251

**From:** [Kim Hasty via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** School Budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:29:15 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Kim Hasty (kimberlyhasty@gmail.com) on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 14:29:13

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address: 634 State St Portsmouth

comments: As an LHS parent I'm thrilled to hear per Mr. Zdravec's email last evening that Cullan Spiller's position will not be completely eliminated. She is a valuable asset to the district but selfishly I do hope something works out to keep her at LHS. Our school office operates at a level that simply cannot be managed efficiently with only one person. I know numbers have fluctuated this school year but from talking to some families who transferred to private schools I believe they'd like to return to LHS next year. I completely understand that the school budget is only a small part of the overall city budget and that many factors must be taken into consideration. However, in light of all our students have endured due to COVID, it seems highly unwise and a missed investment opportunity to decide to take away vital support staff coming off of such a disconnected year. Thank you for all your consideration.  
~Kim Hasty - mom to Landon & Noah @ PMS and Eli & Quinn @ LHS

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.147.241.45

**From:** [Breegan Johnson via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** School Budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:13:54 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Breegan Johnson (Bjohnson0705@outlook.com) on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 08:13:52  
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address: 92 Coakley Rd, Portsmouth

comments: To Whom it May Concern,

As we rapidly approach the budgeting season, I implore you to consider not cutting the school budget. Our kids are struggling more than ever since this pandemic forced them into unconventional learning models and our teachers are stretched beyond comprehension. The schools cannot afford to lose any staff when student needs already exceed staff availability. Our kids have suffered enough.

What they need now, more than ever, is a full return to school, masked, if that's what it takes, but with the full support of all teachers, paraprofessionals and other support staff. Our administrators have done an amazing job reaching out to kids who don't receive much support at home and trying to keep them engaged, but there is only so much they can do, without entering those homes and sitting with those students during the remote part of their school day. Upon a full return to school, those kids will need as much help as we can possibly give them, to catch them up to where they need to be.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Breegan Johnson  
92 Coakley Rd.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.102.39

**From:** [andrew bagley via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** School Budget  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:26:54 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
andrew bagley (abagley21@gmail.com) on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 09:26:52

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address: 40 Chauncey Street

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilor's,

I understand that the City Council requested a zero budget increase from all departments including the schools. I also understand that the State downshifted considerable costs to the School District this year. The school system has proposed a budget increase of just under 3%, will you be supporting this budget increase?

It has my full support both as a parent and resident.

Best regards,  
Andrew Bagley

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.103.253

**From:** [andrew bagley via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Skate Park  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 10:24:29 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
andrew bagley (abagley21@gmail.com) on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 21:24:27

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address: 40 Chauncey Street

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors,

A number of high school kids called in to speak in favor of improving the skate park. When kids take the time to participate in local government we should listen, it does not happen often enough. I was unaware until tonight of the condition of the skatepark and I fully support improving it. I hope that there is something you can do to further encourage our youth to participate and what better way than to show them results of their wishes.

Please look into improving the skate park, the Mayor has been extremely successful with his Task Force and BRC maybe appoint one of those to look into it?

Best regards,  
Andrew Bagley

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.103.253

**From:** [Marcus Santy via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Skate Park  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 9:45:02 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Marcus Santy (Marcus.santy99@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 08:45:00

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address: 46 Elwyn Rd

comments: I would like to wholeheartedly support a/the skate park in Portsmouth. Whether it is a total renovation of the Greenleaf Park or a new one in a different location, it is desperately needed. Not all athletic kids are on athletic fields and courts. Some need concrete and steel and a grinding wheel. If the kids can't skate anywhere near downtown, then we need to create a place that's not out of bounds. Thanks!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 172.56.23.176

**From:** [Jannice Hodges via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Skateboard park  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 11:58:49 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Jannice Hodges (Jannicehodges@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 10:58:47

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address: 35 Harrison Ave

comments: I would love to see Portsmouth have a skateboard park for kids to use! I understand then not being allowed to skate downtown as it can get crowded, but they really should have a space to skateboard. It's good exercise and a dedicated spot would be awesome for our kiddos.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.101.72



**From:** [Nancy Hamilton via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Skatepark  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 12:20:40 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Nancy Hamilton (nancyhamilton28@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 11:20:38

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address: 7 Taft Road

comments: I am writing regarding the proposed renovation or new location for a skatepark in Portsmouth. My grandson, a Rye resident, is an avid skateboarder competing on the national level. He picked up a board at the age of 8 and quickly found both his love of the sport and more importantly love of this community. As a parent and grandparent, I have been witness to the positive impact that being part of something or a team can have in a child's life and can say unequivocally the skate community is unique in the support that all athletes provide to one another. Young or old, novice or seasoned, everyone is there to cheer one another on or lend a useful tip. This is no longer a "fringe" sport. It has been validated for the rigorous sport that it is as evidenced by it's inclusion in the Olympic games.

We have ample support for fields and courts for all other young athletes and it's time we support all children who want to be outside, with friends, and exercising with a place to safely do this.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.149.192.171

**From:** [Amy-Mae Court via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Skatepark: Renovating Greenleaf or building one at a new location  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 11:51:36 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Amy-Mae Court (amymaemassage@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 10:51:34

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address: 47 Taft Road

comments: I am writing to show my support for the initiative to build a skatepark.

The closing of the Rye Airfield has left kids who love skateboarding with no venue in town to participate in their sport. And there's a saying about this sport: if your town doesn't have a skatepark, your town is the skatepark.

And it follows that when your town is the skatepark kids will get in trouble for finding skate spots throughout town where they can hone their skills on stairs, on rails, on curbs.

Kids who love skateboarding deserve a place to skate without getting in trouble for it. After all, skateboarding has become so mainstream that it is now an Olympic sport. And research has shown that as a youth sport skateboarding gives kids a sense of accomplishment, it builds self-confidence, it builds friendships, it creates community—in the very same way as other youth sports such as baseball, soccer, tennis, and basketball.

Here in Portsmouth we have terrific venues for those other youth sports, but not for skateboarding. We rightly invest in youth sport venues because we know the positive impact youth sports has on children. It is time we invested in a skateboard park for that very reason.

I understand there are two options on the table: (a) renovate the dilapidated park at Greenleaf, or (b) develop a new venue at a different location. The latter is by far the better choice, especially if a new venue were to be more centrally located, more easily accessible—a place kids in the area can safely get to on their own. A skatepark tucked in an out-of-the-way location is not only more difficult to get to, but more likely to become dilapidated. Hence, the condition of Greenleaf.

While I do believe a new location is preferable, I would be happy with either initiative, and I can only hope the Council will agree that the investment deserves to be made. Either way, both my son and I would be more than willing to help any way we can.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.147.243.34

**From:** [Peter Dinnerman via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** South Playground tennis to pickelball courts  
**Date:** Saturday, March 13, 2021 11:43:18 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Peter Dinnerman (Jdinn18@aol.com) on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 10:43:16

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address: 61 Taft Rd., Portsmouth, Bh 03801

comments: Pickelball is the fastest growing sport. But there are no dedicated courts in Portsmouth. We are asking for only 2 tennis courts to be converted which would allow 32 players to play at a time compared to only 8 playing tennis. It would be cost effective because the foundation is already there. Please vote YES for the conversion.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 107.77.223.170

**From:** [Allison Bussiere via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** support of multi sports complex  
**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2021 6:58:43 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Allison Bussiere (jobou@comcast.net) on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 17:58:41  
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address: 678 Middle Street

comments: Please consider the the opportunity for a public/private partnership in bringing a multi sports complex - including an ice rink to Portsmouth. As someone who grew up with both indoor and outdoor rinks in town, and the parent of 3 hockey players, I believe there are many in Portsmouth who would enjoy a facility like this. We have seen the ongoing success and and popularity of Puddledock Pond for people of all ages, and a rink with a year round season and the capacity for a wider range of skating and ice hockey along with other sports would be a nice addition and certainly worth exploring.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.159.247.178

**From:** [connor durkin via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Support of the Skatepark  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 8:04:09 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
connor durkin (connor.durkin01@gmail.com) on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 07:04:07

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address: 564 Middle Street

comments: I just wanted to write about my support for the city councils pending decision on the refurbishing of the Greenleaf Recreation Center skatepark. I think this pandemic, as tough as it has been on people, has created a beautiful rediscovery of the outdoors and has fostered a new appreciation. Skateboarding has allowed many youth the opportunity to get outside and see their friends in a Covid safe way. Skateboarding in Portsmouth and the seacoast region has skyrocketed in the past year and we are seeing that in the police reports of youth getting into trouble in the downtown district where skateboarding is not allowed. In order to counteract youth from skateboarding in prohibited areas, the city needs to create a space where it is welcome. Not only does this skatepark create a space for young people to socialize in a covid safe manner, exercise, and master skateboarding tricks, it also fosters a relationship between the city and its youth in making sure their voices are heard. I support the refurbishment of the skatepark and I would be disappointed if the city councillors were to oppose it.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 147.135.77.241

**From:** [Janet Polasky via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** tennis courts and pools  
**Date:** Saturday, March 13, 2021 1:44:14 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Janet Polasky (janet.polasky@gmail.com) on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 12:44:12

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address: 62 MENDUM AVE

comments: I am writing to urge the City Council to consider the pre-Covid use of the existing recreation facilities in Portsmouth, before abandoning them. Further public discussion is needed before the Council decides to repurpose the tennis courts or to build a new facility at the Community Campus.

We bought our first house in Portsmouth in 1981 because it was two blocks from the tennis courts. We have continued to play on them even as we moved a few blocks farther away, and watched our kids learn in rec dept. clinics and then play on the high school team on those courts.

The tennis courts may indeed not get heavy, or any, use in the winter when they have served the growing interest in pickleball. In the summer, though, these newly resurfaced tennis courts were often full with tennis players and others waiting.

Our son played on those courts for four years under Dana and Stu Levenson as part of the PHS team (the high school courts could not accommodate both the boys and girls teams at one time). He frequently complained this summer that they could not get on the courts after work because not only were they full, but there was a line. They left and biked on to other courts, including those at the high school, only to find the condition of the aging surfaces in dire need of repair.

Why would you destroy/repurpose tennis courts that get heavy use by a significant number of Portsmouth residents, including the schools and recreation programs? If there is a demand for pickleball courts, then consider the feasibility of building pickleball courts or repurposing aging courts elsewhere in town. Don't start a war between tennis and pickleball players.

On a related question, councilors referred dismissively to our "aging" pools when a new public-private facility was pitched at the last meeting. I have served on the SIPP board since the beginning, when we literally convinced the city not to take our "paradise" and turn it into a parking lot. SIPP has worked closely with the city to steward the Indoor Pool over the years, replacing the roof, and almost every piece of equipment underneath it. We had just replaced all of the lockers before Covid forced the pool to close. We are all eagerly anticipating its reopening, hopefully soon. The outdoor pool and Spinnaker Point each have their own history of careful city stewardship and incorporation into recreation programs that would make any city proud.

Please consider the maintenance of the bounty of existing facilities that have served generations of Portsmouth kids, seniors, and everyone in between, before diverting funds to pave over what you have and to invest in a facility that may be priced beyond the means of those who enjoy Portsmouth rec. dept. facilities now.

thank you,  
Janet Polasky

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 75.68.180.48