



MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council
FROM: Jane Weidman, Town Planner

DATE: April 5, 2018

RE: Acquisition of Plat 23 Lot 11; Planning Commission Advisory to the Town Council

As requested, the Planning Commission considered the potential purchase by the Town of the above lot for public recreation and open space purposes at their special meeting on April 4, 2018. This meeting was preceded by a group site walk the same evening. Following discussion, the Commission voted unanimously (5 to 0) to send a positive advisory to the Town Council.

The Planning Commission feels strongly that this 6.5 acre mostly undeveloped parcel is an important acquisition for the Town:

- It adjoins town-owned land and its ownership will serve to complete the access to and use of Puchalski Field
- It has easy access and plenty of parking, both at Town Hall and alongside the field
- It includes wooded areas that can become protected open space and used for passive purposes
- It will serve as a permanent buffer between the athletic field and the residential area to the south

The Planning Commission found the acquisition to be in keeping with the comprehensive planning goals of preserving and enhancing open space in Charlestown. The Commission assumes that planning for the future use of the parcel will take into account the historic cemetery near the South County Trail end of the property, as well as the beautiful wooded nature of the land, which has potential for walking trails. They also recommend that at a suitable time after title is obtained, the zoning designation be changed from R-3A to Open Space / Recreation.

cc Mark Stankiewicz
Planning Commission