



Help Stockbridge Decide the Future Use of the Pine Street Recreation Facilities

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The Stockbridge Select Board recently discussed the future of the Pine Street tennis and basketball courts, and now the town is asking residents to help them decide what should come next for this recreation space.

CONTEXT: The Town Does Not Own the Land

The town does not own the land that these recreation amenities are on. The Austen Riggs Center owns the land and leases it to the town under a 99-year agreement, of which 55 years have already elapsed.

The lease requires the town maintain the courts; a responsibility that has not been fulfilled as the courts are currently in disrepair. While Austen Riggs could reclaim the land due to noncompliance, the organization has expressed a willingness to work cooperatively with the town to find a solution.

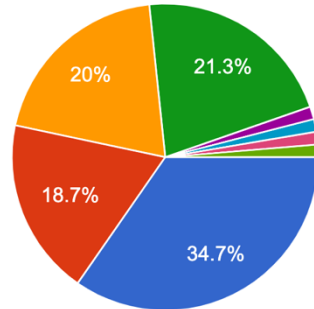
CONTEXT: The Tennis Courts Need to be Restored and Maintained

Town Administrator Michael Canales noted at a recent Select Board meeting that a simple resurfacing would not be sufficient. Due to structural issues with the base layers, full reconstruction is necessary. A recent estimate to rebuild the tennis courts came in at \$215,000, and restoring both courts could possibly cost as much as \$500,000.

Also, note that similar public facilities—basketball and tennis courts—exist just one block away at the Town Offices, which offer additional amenities such as parking and restrooms.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY SHOULD DO? The Select Board is considering the following options and would like public input before they decide what...nt to the Select Board and the Town Administrator:

75 responses



- RESTORE the tennis and basketball courts and continue the lease
- DEMOLISH the courts and return the land to Austen Rigg
- REPURPOSE the space into a passiv...
- EXPLORE other creative alternatives f...
- Put pickle ball courts in the site
- Restore it and make it pickleball court...
- Pickleball courts
- A community garden for in-town resid...

WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY SHOULD DO?

The Select Board is considering the following options and would like public input before they decide what's next for this town space.

RESULTS & COMMENTS

80 people responded to the survey. Here is how the results broke down:

RESTORE the tennis and basketball courts and continue the lease	34.7 %
EXPLORE other creative alternatives for the site	21.3 %
REPURPOSE the space into a passive park (e.g., with concrete chess or checker tables), pending approval from Austen Riggs	20%
DEMOLISH the courts and return the land to Austen Riggs	18.7%

COMMENTS:

Some respondents provided additional comments:

"As a resident with two young children it would be great to have it as some kind of play space - whether that be courts of some type or play structures"

"Pickleball Courts"

*“With adding all those new second home owners that will be coming into town, we need two. It’s basically been locals using pine street **because they’re not good enough for the upper class.** They should have been maintained.”*

“Let’s stop mentioning that similar facilities exist a short distance away. That is not material to this issue. Those facilities also exist in a busier part of town. And why do we think that we can only sustain one set of tennis courts or basketball courts? There’s plenty of need for both. If those pine Street courts were actually in good shape, they would be used. We continually love the fact that we spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to restore monuments in the town. Let’s actually spend some money on things where people today can find use in them.”

“Create a community garden”

“Turn it to a public sculpture space”

“This can and should be a wonderful community asset — I hope you’ll refresh it and allow it to be a visible reminder of the quality of our town and amenities.”

“I love the tennis courts as they are were. However, I understand it’s very costly to restore them, and since there are other courts in town, it may be redundant. However, this requires more thought and creative ideas. Maybe as a central area of recreation, where towns people and local people can meet socially With a sense of community”

“Pickleball courts??”

“Beach volleyball court and outdoor fitness course/apparatus”

“How about getting the kids involved and see what they’d like esp teens”

“I have lived in Stockbridge for over 50 years and have used the tennis and basketball courts over the years. My children have used the courts as well. Although there are the courts by the playground the Pine street courts offer a different feel. They’re not on the main road and offer a less observed place to play. There is a need for both courts as very often there is a wait for a court to be free/available. Please consider keeping the courts on Pine Street for locals and visitors alike. Thank you!”

“Turn one or two of the courts into dedicated pickle ball courts”

“Pickle ball course or even cornhole board”

“restore court with a combination of pickle ball 🍷 and tennis. 🍷 it will be a positive reflection of our towns effort to offer a healthy environment .”

"Have Riggs maintain their own land AND maybe open it to the public... chess tables/benches and public gardens"

"Add line for pickleball as well."

"2-4 pickleball courts with a backboard to practice. If this can't be done, please do anything to continue the space as a community resource (even a dog park)."

"A community garden for in-town residents without backyards"