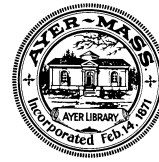


AYER PARKS DEPARTMENT

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November 14, 2023

The RFP for the main work to be done on the construction of the new playground went out to bid in September, with a deadline for bid submissions by October 11. Six bids came in, and the project was awarded to Cella Construction Company by the Ayer Select Board on October 17. Discussions are currently underway between officials from the Parks Department, DPW, BETA Inc and Cella Construction to set up a timetable for the work to be done. BETA has informed us that the equipment ordered in July is still back ordered and will not be arriving until March. Cella Construction will be starting as soon as the equipment arrives and the weather conditions are warm enough to allow surface materials to be installed. This will push up the timeline for the project's completion to be closer to May/June.

The Parks Department, volunteers and other Town of Ayer departments have begun work on the nature base play area that will be situated between the main playground and Grove Pond. The materials for this will be primarily wood that came from trees that had to be removed during the remediation phase of the project. Brad Spinney, an Ayer resident, has graciously volunteered much of his time to milling timber pieces down to create boards and beams that can be used to create the material. Students from Groton School have assisted Parks Department personnel in water sealing the boards, and work will begin over the next few weeks to get as many pieces in place prior to the ground freezing over.

Updated Estimate Timeline:

Winter 2023: Complete planning through BETA for the rebuilding of the playground.

April 2023: Secure funding for the project at Town Meeting.

May/June 2023: Complete design work, set up purchase order for parts and surface material.

July/August 2023: Make purchase order, secure permits for construction.

September 2023: Put out RFP for main construction work.

October: Secure contractor for main construction work.

November: Begin construction on Nature Based Play area.

March 2024: Receive playground equipment order.

Early Spring 2024: Begin construction on main playground area.

Late Spring 2024: Playground grand opening.