



April 22, 2016

Mr. Michael Favreau, Director
Exeter Parks and Recreation
32 Court Street
Exeter, New Hampshire 03833

Re: Exeter Recreation Park Expansion and Re-Design

Dear Mr. Favreau:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss the above reference initiative for the Exeter Recreation Park. The Exeter Youth Soccer Association (EYSA) would like to express our full support for the project. As you are aware EYSA has experienced a significant increase in the number of young people, ages 7 to 18, participating in our travel soccer program. The number of EYSA teams has increased from less than a dozen to more than 30 in the fall and nearly the same for our spring program over the last decade. At any time we may have up to 450 participants taking to the field each week. EYSA maintains relationships with all six SAU 16 communities as well as private entities to secure field space for our members. The fields at Exeter recreation is our most critical and our most valuable field asset for EYSA to carry out our mission.

The initiative being considered is most timely if not overdue. The proposal for a reconfiguration and expansion of Exeter Recreation Park to include a turf field suitable for multi activity use including soccer and lacrosse will solve many threats to our program. These threats include poor weather, late arriving spring, and decreased daylight as our seasons go later into the fall and begin earlier in the spring. The condition of the natural grass fields become strained when subject to poor weather and intensive use. This diminishes the experience of our participants and places a burden on community resources to keep fields open and playable.

EYSA is a community based, non-profit, and volunteer driven organization. We work with a very tight budget to ensure that all players seeking to play in our program can afford to participate. The initiative that you propose comes with a price tag that some may question but the value that comes with it far outweighs the cost. EYSA believes this type of investment in the community will provide great value for years to come and will ensure the quality of life a vibrant community needs and desires. The project will attract help attract business and stimulate commerce to further improve the quality of life for our families, especially our young people.

EYSA looks forward to working with you, the Exeter Board of Selectmen, and the greater Exeter community in support of this project.

Sincerely,

EXETER YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

John J. Boisvert
President