

**From:** Beth Melofchik <tankmadel@yahoo.com>  
 "chapelaine@town.arlington.ma.us" <chapelaine@town.arlington.ma.us>,  
**To:** "mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us" <mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us>,  
 "jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us" <jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 06/25/2018 02:16 PM  
**Subject:** Beer Garden: privatizing a public space, proposal for Whittemore Park

---

To Board of Selectmen:

I write as an Arlington resident, neighbor to Whittemore Park and frequent pedestrian user of this public space.

I am concerned that the town seeks to lease this limited resource, **a public shaded park with functional benches** to a commercial entity for their exclusive use for the entirety of summer and September weekends. I strongly oppose this proposal. Whittemore Park, as all town parks and green spaces are **public resources**

- **Why would public recreational resources be monetized to the exclusion of public use and for the income generating business activities of a brewery during prime outdoor weather in summer and September?**
- In the immediate area there are **no other similar sized spaces offering shaded park benches**.
- Uncle Sam Plaza offers a level area, designed with gatherings in mind, was this considered as a location?
- \$400 would this fee be for each day? Otherwise it seems low. What fee was charged for events at Town garden, for weddings for example?
- Has safety been considered at this high trafficked intersection:
  - bikes
  - pedestrians
  - bike trailers with children inside
  - consumers of alcohol
- Wear and tear on Whittemore Park
  - Has a study been done to anticipate potential hazards to participants as well as potential degradation of existing park amenities? This is not a 'beer garden' with tables and food service and adequate public restrooms. The proposal may be viewed by some as a kegger at a busy town intersection in a park without level surfaces, with embedded train tracks, tree root strewn slopes and a couple of porta potties.
- Would this be precedent setting?
  - Could a single entity organization rent out Menotomy Rocks Park for exclusive use on a weekend, or all weekends in summer? Or a competing brewery for instance rent out for exclusive use Robbins Hill Park for all summer weekends? Why then Whittemore Park?

- Has the town considered a trial run of one July Saturday 4pm to 8pm, thereby not competing with local businesses?
  - **This time frame would allow summer daytime weekend use of the park by the public.**
- Has the town considered hosting monthly arts and crafts fairs in this space and in the adjoining parking lot on the former town green? Please reference the Davis Flea in nearby Somerville as an example. This activity attracts a young demographic which spends money at the Davis Flea and at nearby coffee spots and brunch places.
- Has the town considered using the now paved town green, for Saturday evening dance gatherings? Or a centralized summer long weekend PorchFest? **Or even as the location of this proposed activity? Locate it in the center of the parking lot behind Whittemore Park. That is the underutilized space, not the park.**

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my concerns.

Respectfully,  
Beth Melofchik