CITY OF WOBURN
WOBURN CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL PERMITS COMMITTEE
WOBURN CITY HALL
COMMITTEE ROOM
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026 – 6:04 p.m.

Voting members present: Chair pro tem Lou DiMambro, Councilor Joseph E. Demers, and Councilor Jeffrey P. Dillon. Absent: Chair Darlene A. Mercer-Bruen, and Councilor Charles Viola.

Non-voting members present: Councilor Yano Amara, Councilor Robert J. Ferullo, Jr., Councilor William J. Pappalardo, and President Robert F. Toro, Jr.

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Reading and approval of meeting minutes of January 28, 2026: Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting, all in favor, 3-0-2.

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City of Woburn for a Special Permit under WZO Section 5.1(79) for a skateboard park at the Shamrock Elementary School, 60 Green Street: Representing the applicant was Rory Lindstrom, Recreation Director, City of Woburn, 10 Common St., Woburn, MA. Director Lindstrom said that since the City Council meeting on March 17 she has spoken to Eastern Avenue resident Heather Molind and alleviated a lot of her concerns. Director Lindstrom said Ms. Molind thought the park was going to be much bigger. She said there will be signage installed to direct vehicular traffic. She said she spoke with the Recreation Director in Burlington because there is the same type of park at Simonds Park. She said there are minimal issues with the skateboard park in Burlington. She said if there are any issues they contact the police who respond quickly. She said Lexington has had a skateboard park since 2000. She said Lexington is building a new skateboard park in the vicinity of the Hayden Recreation Centre. She said the town has not gotten a lot of pushback. She said the park has been well-received. She said one of the few problems with skate parks is there tends to be an issue with graffiti. She said there is a skate park in just about every surrounding community. She said she reached out to the Recreation Director in Wilmington because that town is building a small skateboard park. She said it will not generate a lot of attention. She said given the scale and scope of the proposed park at the Shamrock School she thinks the only people who will use it are Woburn kids. She said she does not expect the park to generate a lot of traffic while school is in session. She said the high school gets out between 1:45-2 p.m. She said by the time the high school students make it to the Shamrock the elementary kids will be back in class. She said pickup and drop-off at the Shamrock can be hectic but there are no buses coming and going from that school. She said all Shamrock students are walkers. She said she does not envision 40 cars showing up to the Shamrock to use the skate park. She said if traffic becomes a problem, it will be addressed. She

said she does not foresee any issues other than the potential for graffiti. Councilor Dillon said the skateboard park is approximately the size of a basketball court. He said he checked it out and it seems like a great location. He said he thinks Director Lindstrom did a really good job on this. Councilor Demers asked Director Lindstrom if there has been any collaboration with the School Dept. Director Lindstrom said the mayor spoke to the Shamrock School principal. She said she spoke to Director of School Facilities Len Burnham and he has no concerns. She said Supt. of Schools Dr. Matthew Crowley and Asst. Supt. for Curriculum and Instruction Courtney Young have no concerns. She said School Committee member Jessie Wetzel said there is a lot of excitement about the skateboard park. Councilor Demers asked what is the target opening date. Director Lindstrom said ideally the park will open during the summer. She said she certainly wants to open it before school returns in September. She said if the park opens early in the summer the luster may wear off before school opens in the fall and there may be less traffic. Councilor Demers said he would like Director Lindstrom to report back to the council six months after the park opens. Director Lindstrom said for now there is no fence going around the park but if there are issues, they can look into putting up a fence. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon to suspend the City Council's rules to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address the special permit application; approved, 3-0-2. Councilor Pappalardo said the skate park is in Ward 2 and he has gotten 10 or so calls about it. He said half of the callers were in support and the other half were not in support. He said he knows the public hearing will resume in a couple of weeks but he would like to open the committee meeting to comments from the public. He said he thinks the skate park is a really good thing but he would like to hear from any constituents in the audience. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon to suspend the City Council's rules to allow members of the audience to participate; approved, 3-0-2. Chair pro tem DiMambro asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the committee in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon to return to the regular order of business; approved, 3-0-2. Councilor Demers said he would prefer to send this matter back for action to work on the plan of record and include language that would request the Recreation Dept. report back to the City Council in six months. He said he will have that language ready by the time the council holds its next meeting. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon to send the matter "back for action;" approved, 3-0-2.

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Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to adjourn, all in favor, 3-0-2. Chair Mercer-Bruen adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees