

Select Board Meeting
July 31, 2022

RE: Pickleball Courts at Ginn Field

Dear Board Members,

Joe Lyman and I are USA Pickleball Ambassadors for the Eastern MA area. We would like to ask for your support to repurpose the unused basketball court at Ginn Field to 3 permanent pickleball courts.

As you probably know, Pickleball has exploded in popularity among all ages across the US and over 70 nations. USA Pickleball says "2023 marks the **58th** anniversary of pickleball, as it was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island", and now has approximately 8.9 million players in the US.

I first introduced the game in Winchester in 2010. With the support of the Winchester Rec. Dept., we have used temporary space and portable nets sporadically in the Rec. Dept. auditorium and McCall Middle School gym. We now have three outdoor permitted times (12 hrs. total) for play at Leonard Field tennis courts. Our player roster has grown from 25 to over 250. We continue to conduct many private lessons and group clinics over the past years. I also provide weekly lessons at the Jenks Center from Sept. to June.

Many of our players travel to surrounding towns and cities that have constructed designated pickleball courts for their citizens. They often have to pay extra fees or be waitlisted due to preference given to residents of that location.

Having permanent courts at Ginn Field will solve the issue of having to set up, and take down portable nets that are not weatherproof, monitor proper net care, a lock box for the equipment and share space with tennis players. Players can come and play at any time using a first come system like tennis. We can expand pickleball to include small tournaments and offer league play within Winchester and with other towns.

We look forward to answering any questions about the possible expansion of places to play in Winchester for this fun, yet also competitive and inclusive sport.

Thank you,

Marjorie R. Berger, local Ambassador/ Metro North and resident
Joseph M. Lyman, District Ambassador, Eastern MA

