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# Guilderland Moves to Buy Park

By FRED LeBRUN

The Guilderland Town Board voted unanimously last night to

exercise the town's option on Tawasentha Park for use as a town recreational area.

The move, recommended by the Town Planning Board and the town's master planner, Matthew Delany, was opposed by the Guilderland Civic Association which had petitioned for a popular referendum on whether to purchase the park.

Supervisor Carl Walters explained that the board could exercise the option without a referendum because the town's share of the expense — \$73,500 — can be financed in less than five years.

The remainder of the \$295,000 purchase price will come from

federal funds, which only recently became available to the town.

James Bruce, president of the Civic Association, demanded to know why the board was ignoring a petition allegedly signed by more than 1,000 Guilderland residents, asking for a popular vote.

Mr. Walters replied that he had been elected four years ago on the promise he would seek a town park, and therefore felt the board had a mandate from the people in its decision.

Councilman T. Gerald Bucklass also asserted that the petition presented to the board was fraudulent, in that investigation revealed that many people had

signed the petition thinking it was a document favoring a park. Mr. Bucklass also charged many of the signatures on the petition were not authentic.

Praising the board for its action was John DePalma, who said the 350 boys involved in the Little League could finally look forward to a permanent home. Andrew Valenti, speaking on behalf of the McKownville Civic Association, also praised the board for its step, and asked that other recreational areas be surveyed.

Supervisor Walters said the town was investigating small neighborhood parks for the future, as recommended by the town master planner.

Cost to operate the now privately owned 108-acre park would be \$30,000 per year, with about \$10,000 per year expected in revenue, Mr. Walters said. The balance has been provided for in the new town budget which will be ready for public scrutiny by Thursday, he added.

For the taxpayer, the purchase of the park will mean an increase of only 95 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation for the next five years, the supervisor said.

In other action, a public hearing was scheduled for 8:15 p.m. Nov. 12, to consider a Pinehills Estates lighting district.