



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Chairman William D. Raus called the meeting to order with Vice-Chair Betty Slade, Hugh Morton, Janet Jones, Jim Coyne, Richard Lambert and Ann Brum. Absent were Elizabeth Collins and Timothy Gillespie.

Recognition of former Member Warren Messier.

Mr. Raus read the citation into the record. Mr. Cole also stated his appreciation.

Ms. Slade stated that Mr. Messier was able to save thousands of dollars in respect to projects such as the Council on Aging roof.

Correspondence.

The CP-3 annual filing was made since the last meeting. New projects were added. Adjustment were also made to older projects.

Minutes.

July 16, 2015.

Ms. Slade motioned to approve as written. Ms. Jones seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Invoices.

Eastbay Newspapers \$25.20 for advertising of the public hearing

CLE Engineering, Beach Avenue Accessibility project \$813.99.

The majority of the members voted to pay. Mr. Morton abstained.

Any other business that may come before the committee.

Ms. Slade brought up the continuing need for CPC signs. She noted that the newly opened soccer fields did not have a sign because they were waiting for CPC to provide either an example or the sign itself. Mr. Lambert stated that he felt that the sign should be permanent. Ms. Slade stated that in other Massachusetts' towns, the sign when required is placed in a mutually agreed area.

She suggested that there be a logo approved by CPC, but that the signs could be individualized.

Mr. Raus stated that there should be a construction sign for the time that a project is being worked on and then a more permanent sign placed as agreed upon. He suggested putting a budget together to purchase the signs to provide to the applicants. Ms. Slade asked for this to be ready at the next meeting.

b. Ms. Slade distributed the Town Accountant's spreadsheet of the open accounts. She suggested recording who the manager is and their contact point. The unfinished projects should be addressed. She noted that some of the projects were transferred over to others when the original manager no longer could continue the work. This information should be recorded officially.

c. The CPC has not looked at grant agreements or preservation restrictions in recent times.. If CPA funding was used for a purchase, then there needs to be a restriction filed by the Town and overseen by an entity. The Handy House has a historical preservation restriction on the 2 acres around the house. A grant agreement was also signed on the house and the total property. The Grant agreement is administered by the CPC. She stated that the Massachusetts Historic Commission has in the past stated they would provide a historic preservation restriction on the total property, but they have not followed through. She noted that the restriction does not have to be done before the project is funded, but must be applied soon after. If Town owned, it must be held by a 3rd party.

d. Ms. Slade stated that she had spoken to Mr. Saginor from the CPA Coalition and he has agreed to come to the November 12th meeting to talk to the committee about items such as preservation restrictions, grant agreements and procurement policies for private entities.

Public Hearing Pursuant to Section 5 of the Community Preservation Act for public input for priorities and goals for FY16.

1. John Bell (Armory Petty Way). He provided information on the powder house built after the war of 1812 and used through the Civil War by Westport's militia to house their arsenal. He thought of asking for funding to re-shingle the building since it is Town owned and on Town property. He stated that he spoke with the Highway surveyor who would help provide the labor. A person in the audience said he would be willing to donate the shingles.
2. Peter Brown was present and said he would like to see more recreation areas for kids. He stated that there are more and more kids and the town is still growing. Ms. Slade stated that it would be a good idea to connect with the leadership of the Recreation Commission and there would be some funding. He said that more of a park-like open area is what is needed with a maintained lawn (no playground equipment necessarily is needed). Ms. Constance Gee suggested considering the Wood property on Main Road which is for sale. The cost of the property is very expensive. Parking was noted is available at the Town Hall Annex across the street.
3. Sarah Quintal, of the Buzzards Bay Coalition, project manager and conceptual planner of portions of the public access at Beach Avenue. The project for dune restoration was funded by Coastal Zone Management. The other portion concerns the area of the end of the stone wall to the Knubble to provide public access with the only handicapped access to a beach in town. She stated that she would come back with a more formal application. The dune restoration project is using the same engineer as the Commission of Disabilities project for dune crossing.
4. Ryan Mann from the Westport Land Conservation Trust was present to say thank you to the Committee for all the partnering with the Land Trust thus far. He stated the Land Trust is doing a good job and is thankful to the support of this committee. Ms. Slade stated that one of the big open space projects at the inception of CPC concerned farms. Should CPC be looking for Farms to save such as the Oscar Palmer Farm? Mr. Mann noted that the Orr Farm was acquired some time ago and just 2 years ago, the Barrett Farm was placed under an agricultural preservation restriction. He said that these things take a lot of time. The Land Trust works with willing land owners and if a project comes up he stated that he would be willing to partner another entity for something like the new portions of the old Wood Farm. Mr. Raus asked if there could be an open play area on any of the WLCT properties. Mr. Mann stated that each property has different conditions placed upon them.

Mr. Raus stated it would be nice to have an open field for people to play on. Mr. Mann stated that every single project has a copy of the town logo and a clear statement of the CPC funding. Ms. Slade stated that most people do not know the difference between an APR and conservation restrictions and who holds these restrictions. Mr. Mann explained that many conservation restriction are held by the Conservation Commission vs. APRs are supported by the Land Trust. Ms. Slade noted that the Historical commission holds 3 - The Wolf Pit School, The Handy House and the Oscar Palmer Farm. Mr. Raus asked Mr. Mann to return in November.

5. Tony Connors of the Historical Society was present and he stated that he does not have a specific project but wanted to make a general statement to say thanks to the Committee. The Handy House, the Historical Society has made the venue publicly accessible and has had 1,000 people come through just last year. It has been a real success and they could not have done it without the CPC.
6. Ms. Slade stated that it might be a good idea to look at town properties in partnership with the Historical Commission.
7. Mr. Raus suggested the old stone bridge at Kirby Brook on the Old Drift Road is something that the Historical Society could be looking at. Ms. Slade stated that there would be some funding in conjunction with any work the Highway department could do.
8. Taylor Arsenault, environmental sustainability graduate of UMass Amherst. He would like to see more natural resources preserved in Town. He noticed the changes in one year's time after his absence during a school year away and he said it was mind boggling. He would like to see more open spaces. Mr. Coyne suggested that there are openings on the Recreation Commission and that Mr. Arsenault should consider that. Ms. Slade read the definition of open space for the audience to indicate the breadth of possibilities. She suggested he return on November 12th and to look at the Community Preservation Coalition website to learn more.

Mr. Raus thanked the audience for their attendance. He asked Mr. Messier because of his years of experience if he had any ideas that he might have. Mr. Messier suggested Mr. Arsenault contact Mr. Brown of the WUYS and also the WYAA.

Next meeting:

Regular Meeting – October 8, 2015 and November 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Adjourn.

Members unanimously adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lucy R. Tabit