



## COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF REMOTE PARTICIPATION

#### REGULAR MEETING

**Thursday November 12, 2020**

Chair, Betty Slade called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Vice-Chair Tim Gillespie and members Hugh Morton, John Bell, Dale Weber, Janet Jones, Mark Schmid, and Elizabeth Collins. Phil Weinberg was absent.

#### **Minutes.**

**Motion** by Mr. Bell to approve the minutes of September 10, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Gillespie. Members voted all in favor by roll call.

#### **Update on Affordable Housing Trust activities. Leonardi Aray.**

Housing Specialist, Mr. Aray, presented information on the programs the Housing Assistance office whose mission is to help people with low and moderate incomes afford the cost of housing in Westport. Their Goals are to 1) convert existing buildings to affordable homes, 2) ease the cost for existing residents in need and 3) construct new affordable homes.

Programs currently provided are weekly outreach through the Housing Assistance Office at Town Hall; Housing Opportunity Purchase Plans; Small Scale Developments; Housing Rehabilitation Program (CRE\_HAB): grant for repairs are non CPA funds; Noquochoke Village and Land Acquisition Program. Mr. Aray talked about the current home being constructed by Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Collins stated that this would be have a de-nitrification system, which the Trust is very proud of. Mr. Schmid asked what the SHI was. Mr. Aray stated it was at 3% at this time.

Ms. Slade asked about the rental assistance noted in the CPA Coalition newsletter. Mr. Aray explained that in Westport there is stable housing and no emergency borrowing has presented itself.

The old high school reuse was discussed. Mr. Aray stated the Trust has not discussed this fully and that there is no consensus as to the use yet. Ms. Collins noted that they are looking at the former Montessori school. She noted there would need to be much coordination. She said elderly housing mixed with affordable housing is an idea they would like to look into. Mr. Morton opined that elderly housing is a good idea but the building is not new and the cost of refurbishing the building does not seem to be feasible. The committee that ran the meeting was the Long Term Building Committee, chaired by Donald Davidson. Ms. Slade stated she listened to their last meeting and noted that there were many ideas but nothing specific. She said there is no money to fund any of the ideas. She also noted the high cost of tearing down a building and the after maintenance.

#### **Update on Westport Water Management Plan. Bob Daylor.**

Mark Schmid, the Planning Board Representative, introduced Mr. Daylor, the Vice Chair of the Planning Board and member of the steering committee for this project. After several public input meetings, the final report was submitted since it began in 2018. The open sessions for public input were funded through CPA funding. Mr. Daylor gave a presentation of the findings to the members on updating the watershed model for today's land uses and water quality data by implementing

denitrification systems to mitigate nitrogen loading in specific areas to see improvements in the river quality, as possible solutions.

**Discussion of potential project at the "campgrounds" next to new Middle/High School.**

Ms. Slade briefly explained this project. The Camping Ground Committee will plan to come back to describe the proposal for fields and other outdoor areas for use by the schools and the public.

**FY17 Westport Town Records project. Proposed new activity using those funds.**

Betty Slade stated that this project has been quite productive. Ms. Slade would like to use some of the funding to convert 150 of the tapes of interviews and meetings of historic value to MP3 and upload to VIMEO. The Historical Society has also done this with other tapes. Ms. Slade proposed expending \$3,500 and hiring Rick Tabit of Digital Farms to do this as he has worked on these before and for CPC for the historic documents also. Mr. Gillespie felt it was a good idea.

**Motion** by Mr. Gillespie to approve. Seconded by Mr. Bell. Members voted all in favor by roll call.

**Report on FY 20 Annex Recreation Projects.** Tim Gillespie updated the members with the updates to the rear area of the Annex. Although they solicited 3 bids, only one reasonable bid came back. He request CPC approval for approval of the bid in the amount of \$24,800. Work may have to wait until the spring. He noted that the Recreation Director has mentioned that a pavilion would be of good use for people to sit under. He is looking at the design in Japanese timber framing and would like to collaborate with volunteers to save expenses.

**Motion** by Ms. Collins to approve. Seconded by Ms. Jones. Members voted all in favor by roll call.

**Grant Agreement with Affordable Housing Trust.**

Ms. Slade asked the members to agree to sign this agreement with a quorum as it is easier under these conditions to have 5 members sign instead of 9. **Motion** by Ms. Collins to sign the AHT contract. Seconded by Mr. Gillespie. Members voted all in favor by roll call.

**Annual Report Due.**

Mr. Bell will work on this.

**Update on existing CPA reserves in Westport.**

Ms. Slade stated the reserves would be available for next month with a total of what will be available.

**Bills**

Since the last meeting, the following bills were paid:

SITEC for Head of Westport stone wall oversight \$730 and

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Woodall for stonework work \$63,000. (Work verified by SITEC Sean Leach and Jeff Bull, Chair of Landing Commission)

WHS & Heritage Restoration for Bell School Exterior \$49,601.50

**Motion** by Ms. Jones to approve. Seconded by Mr. Morton. Members voted all in favor by roll call.

**Next meeting:** December 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**Adjourn.**

Motion by Mr. Gillespie adjourn at 8:15 pm. Seconded by Ms. Weber. Members voted all in favor by roll call.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucy Tabit  
Recording Clerk

**Attachments:**

September 10, 2020 minutes.