

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY
OCTOBER 14, 2021
(Conducted via Google Meet)**

Members Present: Betty Slade, Chair
Timothy Gillespie
John Bell
Elizabeth Collins
Janet Jones
Hugh Morton
Mark Schmid
Dale Weber

Absent was: Philip Weinberg

Also present: Ken Sullivan, WYAA
Keith MacDonald, WYAA/Bike & Pedestrian Path

The meeting was called to order by Chair Betty Slade at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements by Chair were as follows:

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 20(f), the meeting is being recorded.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Westport Community Preservation Committee is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to listen to or view this meeting while in progress may do so by following the remote links listed on the posting online. An audio recording of this meeting will be posted on the Town's web site.

1. Minutes of September 9, 2021 - Mr. Morton made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting. Chair Slade mentioned that one revision to be made to the minutes is on

page 7, where the amount of \$12,589.72 for the Handy House roof should be changed to \$10,519.64. Once the minutes are approved, they will be forwarded to the Town Accountant with the list of amounts to be swept. Ms. Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2021 as amended. Mr. Morton seconded the motion, which was passed with John Bell, Dale Weber, Tim Gillespie, Elizabeth Collins, Hugh Morton, Mark Schmid, Janet Jones, and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote.

2. Ken Sullivan, President of the Westport Youth Athletic Association (WYAA) addressed the Committee regarding the baseball infields. He stated that:

1. As of last spring, field hockey and T-Ball are being played on the fields.

2. Grass seed in the four (4) primary baseball fields has been planted for two (2) years.

3. This winter, the plan is to install fencing and dugouts.

4. There are funds available for extended parking and to construct bleachers.

5. An anonymous donation was made to construct a walking path, which should be finished by next spring.

6. Irrigation is a major project, more specifically, installation of REEL irrigators and well heads. He is working with Rene Lachapelle (RALCO Electric) for installation of power for the water. RALCO is designing a plan that will accommodate future needs.

7. Fundraising is being planned as well.

8. Wellheads are between \$5,000-\$10,000 each and at least three (3) are needed. He received a quote of \$250,000 for installation of the water supply, which is crucial and should be the first item to be addressed.

9. Future plans include concession stand and lights for nighttime playing.

10. The WYAA has applied to Diman Regional to provide the labor to construct the two (2) dugouts.

Mr. Bell asked about the issue with the infields. Mr. Sullivan stated that the infields were installed; however, due to COVID, they were not utilized as they should have been, causing the infield mix to blow away and compromise the structure. The infields require raking and watering weekly.

Chair Slade asked Mr. Sullivan what he would like to ask of the Committee. Mr. Sullivan said that the WYAA Board needs to meet to discuss and finalize the amount needed. He thought the amount of \$100,000 would be required to get fencing and dugouts to make the four (4) fields fully operational.

Keith MacDonald stated that the original quotes for fencing and installation of backstops have increased due to COVID and availability of materials. Previously, fencing for each field was \$45,000. Currently, the cost could be \$60,000 per field. Two (2) years ago, backstops were installed at a cost of \$17,000-\$18,000 for each backstop.

Chair Slade said that, clearly, water and power supply is very important. The Committee would like to be informed as to the total amount needed for these projects, as well as funds being provided by private entities.

Mr. Morton inquired about generators that may be utilized on a short-term basis.

Mr. Sullivan said it is very feasible that an 80-kilowatt generator may work, which will be provided by a local farmer. He also noted that the fields require minimal fencing for dugouts for purposes of hosting tournaments. Mr. Sullivan also said that he would provide the Committee with a YouTube link for a drone view of the area.

Mr. Sullivan said that he would attend the November meeting, at which time, he will provide the Committee with quotes and the funds be requested.

Mr. MacDonald said that the pavement millings have been donated to expand the parking area, which is an approximate savings of \$10,000.

3. Bike and Pedestrian Path -- Keith MacDonald addressed the Committee regarding the bike/pedestrian path. He said that:

1. A grant application was submitted to MassTrails, and the amount of \$50,000 was received.

2. He has engaged SRPEDD on the Phase II study, including route assignments.

3. Public meetings were held, with public engagement and community participation. SRPEDD will compile the survey information and draft a report.

4. The path is planned for Fall River to New Bedford, through Westport and Dartmouth.

5. One major issue is utilizing the rail with a right of way. Massachusetts does not own the rail in some areas; wetlands in Westport and Dartmouth. The northern route is scenic. MassDOT and SRPEDD are actively working on a Route 6 corridor study, where a bike facility may be located along Route 6.

Chair Slade asked whether funds from the American Rescue Plan are available for this project.

Mr. MacDonald said those funds are not available at this time; however, MassDOT is interested in bike facilities and using funds in the Southcoast.

4. Reserves -- The Committee discussed the expense accounts. The reserves are money not expended, together with sweeps. Also discussed were the undesignated fund balance and budgeted reserves. There is currently a reserve of \$660,000, in addition to \$550,000 that will be received this year, which will give the CPC some flexibility to use for future projects.

5. Bills -- Chair Slade discussed the work that is being performed by volunteers, headed by Todd Batista and Troy Rebello. To date, 140 gravestones have been repaired and restored with suspension of work for the winter by the end of October. Mr. Gillespie made a motion to approve the bills from Atlas Preservation, Inc. for supplies in the amounts of \$65.74 and \$295.13. Ms. Weber seconded the motion, which was passed with John Bell, Dale Weber, Tim Gillespie, Hugh Morton, Mark Schmid, Janet Jones, Betty Slade and Elizabeth Collins voting aye in a roll call vote.

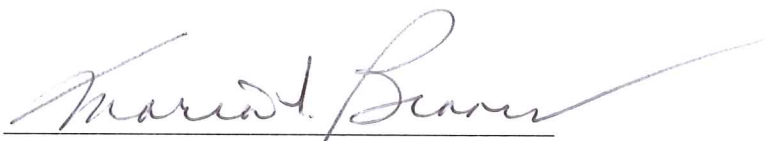
6. Restoration of First Fire Engine -- Sam Manley was not available to attend the meeting, however, plans to attend the meeting in November, when he will explain the initial amount of \$245,000 needed to restore the fire engine.

7. Other business not anticipated - Mr. Bell stated that he attended the CPC Boot Camp, which he found to be very interesting.

8. Adjourn - Mr. Gillespie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Ms. Weber seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously with Dale Weber, Hugh Morton, Elizabeth Collins, Janet Jones, Mark Schmid, Tim Gillespie, John Bell and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote.

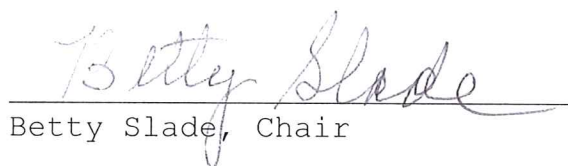
The next meeting is currently scheduled for November 18, 2021, to be held via Google Meet, unless otherwise decided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maria I. Branco", written over a horizontal line.

Maria I. Branco, Clerk
Community Preservation Committee

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Betty Slade", written over a horizontal line.
Betty Slade, Chair

Attachments:

CPC Minutes of September 9, 2021

Bills from Atlas Preservation, Inc.