

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 10, 2022
(Conducted via Google Meet)**

Members Present: Betty Slade, Chair
Timothy Gillespie
John Bell
Janet Jones
Dale Weber
Mark Schmid (entered meeting at 6:36 p.m.)
Philip Weinberg (entered meeting at 6:57 p.m.)

Absent Members: Hugh Morton
Elizabeth Collins

Also present: Todd Baptista, Laura Oliveira and Troy Rebello

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 January 13, 2022 - Ms. Weber made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2022 Annual Public Meeting. Mr. Bell seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously with

John Bell, Janet Jones, Tim Gillespie, Dale Weber and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote.

2. Annual Report

Chair Slade stated that the Annual Report for 2021, prepared by Mr. Bell, had been submitted to Denise Bouchard, who was in the process of completing the Annual Reports for 2020 and 2021. Mr. Gillespie made a motion to accept the Report as written. Ms. Jones seconded the motion, which was passed with John Bell, Janet Jones, Tim Gillespie, Dale Weber and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote.

3. Contract with Eric Dray, Legal Consultant

Chair Slade discussed the contract with Eric Dray to perform various legal services regarding the Bell School House Historical Preservation Restriction. Mr. Gillespie made a motion to approve the contract with Eric Dray. Ms. Weber seconded the motion, which was passed with John Bell, Janet Jones, Tim Gillespie, Dale Weber and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote.

4. Contract with Jonathan Appell, Atlas Restoration, Inc.

Chair Slade stated that Mr. Appell would conduct specialized training workshops for the volunteers working on the CPA Gravestone Restoration Project. Chair Slade said that two (2) days would be funded by the CPC and two (2) days would be funded by private funds, as he will be working some of the time at private cemeteries. Ms. Jones made a motion to approve the contract with Jonathan Appell. Mr. Gillespie seconded the motion, which was passed with John Bell, Janet Jones, Tim Gillespie, Dale Weber and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote. Chair Slade said that Town Accountant Nicole Pearsall has designed a new and simpler way of the CPC entering into contracts.

5. Warrant Article for Town Meeting

Ms. Weber made a motion to approve the CPC Warrant Article 14. Mr. Bell seconded the motion, which was passed with John Bell, Janet Jones, Tim Gillespie, Mark Schmid, Dale Weber and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote.

6. Updated Table on CR and APRs Using CPA Funding presented for information only.
7. Updated Table on Allocation of CPA Funds Since 2002 presented for information only.

The Committee discussed the information contained in the Tables regarding land and farm preservation. Members thought the tables were informative and helpful. Mr. Gillespie stated that he would have liked to see a total of the amount that the State had given to the CPC. Chair Slade said that the CPC page on the Town's website shows the table of approved projects, which also shows the State match of \$3.6 million. Regarding approved CPA projects as of December 31, 2021, the table shows a total of \$11,651,800 was allocated as follows: all historic preservation projects - \$2,717,204; all open space and farm projects - \$3,705,000 (\$256,000 was returned to CPA from State grants); all recreation projects - \$2,360,105; and all community housing projects - \$2,869,491.

8. Report on Update of Web Page on Town Website

Chair Slade thanked Carol Freitas, the Town's Veterans' Agent, for updating the CPC page of the Town's website.

9. Death of John Czupryna

Chair Slade said that she attempted to contact Mr. Czupryna to conduct an appraisal of the Berry Hill Farm conservation restriction. Mr. Czupryna's nephew contacted Chair Slade to advise that his uncle had passed away in July 2021. Chair Slade said that she will ask Ross Moran to recommend an appraiser, as the appraisal must be submitted to Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Schmid suggested Alexander Olney from LandVest Real Estate.

Chair Slade said that she and Mr. Gillespie will meet to discuss projects that are currently pending. Another project is the stone walls at the Head of Westport that Jeff Bull is overseeing. Mr. Bell said he had not discussed that project with Mr. Bull but would do so. Chair Slade said she would circulate the list of outstanding projects for members to review.

Mr. Bell said that he has not noticed any work being done on the roof at the Council on Aging. He said he would follow up with Beverly Bisch regarding the status of the work. Mr. Gillespie said that he had submitted the RFP to the Council to complete and submit, however, had not heard anything further as to the status.

Chair Slade asked John Bell to check with Ms. Bisch about that also.

10. Correspondence - None.

11. Bills

(a) Community Preservation Coalition - Annual Membership Dues in the amount of \$2,875.00. Mr. Gillespie made a motion to approve the payment of the bill. Ms. Weber seconded the motion, which passed with John Bell, Janet Jones, Tim Gillespie, Mark Schmid, Dale Weber and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote.

(b) Bills for Historic Gravestone Restoration Project. \$1,976. Chair Slade introduced volunteers from the project. Todd Baptista, Troy Rebello and Laura Oliveira addressed the Committee. Mr. Baptista gave a summary of the work performed to restore cemetery gravestones. He said the team cleaned between 700-900 gravestones at both the private and public cemeteries. As to gravestone repairs, the survey conducted at the Linden Grove Cemetery in September 2020 showed about 165 stones were in need of repair. Since then, between July and December, 227 stones were either repaired or restored: 154 at Linden Grove, 32 at Westport Point and few others in other cemeteries. On Saturday, February 12, 2022, there will be a reassessment at Linden Grove to determine what other stones require attention. It is known that at least 55 require repair, as well as a few from last year that are still in the process of being repaired. Mr. Baptista said the goal is to complete Linden Grove by mid-summer.

Mr. Baptista stated that Jonathan Appell from Atlas Preservation will be returning to the restoration project for two (2) weekends. In April, he will work at the Rufus Wordell Cemetery, to address the stones that were vandalized as far back as the 1980s. Mr. Baptista spoke with an ancestor of an interred in that cemetery, who was very supportive of what could be a very unique restoration/repair project. Mr. Appell is expected to be at Beech Grove Cemetery for one of the weekends as well.

Chair Slade said that there are 409 members of the Facebook Gravestone Cleaning and Restoration group. In May, inmates from the Bristol County House of Corrections will work at the sites. A Mason group and Boy Scouts may also be working with the volunteer group.

Laura Oliveira stated that volunteers are adding information about cleaning, restoration and research on to the existing Westport Cemetery website.

Mr. Schmid praised the efforts of the volunteers. He asked about whether the Almy Cemetery off Horseneck Rd. would be one of those to be worked at. Mr. Baptista said he visited the Almy Cemetery with Norm Anderson, and found it in bad condition. The Almy family is unsure whether the project will go forward as one of the family members may not consent. Mr. Schmid said he would be happy to talk with the owner of the property. He understands that a solar array is being installed, with a 100-foot border around the cemetery. Chair Slade said that the Almy Cemetery is one of the cemeteries to be restored. It has a revolutionary war veteran in it.

Mr. Gillespie asked whether GIS maps of the cemeteries exist. Chair Slade said they did but were going to be updated in the newer version of the GIS. GIS Coordinates exist but more accurate ones will be done.

Chair Slade said she met with Sharon Potter and Theo Gabriel to review the records for the 103 cemeteries in Westport for updating. A couple of properties were not shown to have cemeteries. Ms. Gabriel has stated the the so-called independent cemeteries will all be given lot numbers and put on the assessors' maps and tracked. She mentioned that she had revised the list of cemeteries to put two cemeteries together as they had been wrongly listed: WSP 875 and 878. They are actually one historic cemetery where the interred are from the Davis and Sowle families. It is situated on 5 separate properties and has been registered with the Mass Historical Commission.

The bill before the CPC was for reimbursement for the purchase of a used golf cart, as well as materials for the repair of hand pumps, in the total amount of \$1,976.36. Mr. Rebello does the work as a volunteer. The golf cart will be utilized to transport materials from one area to another. Members were very supportive of using the golf cart. Ms. Weber made a motion to approve the payment of the total bills of \$1,976.36. Ms. Jones seconded the motion, which passed with Janet Jones, John Bell, Mark Schmid, Dale Weber, Tim Gillespie and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote.

Chair Slade said she will ask the Cemetery Department if the golf cart can be stored in the building on Maple Grove. Volunteers will do work to make it usable as they did on the building on Linden Grove.

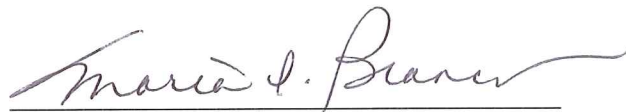
Troy Rebello entered the meeting and was asked to address the Committee. Chair Slade expressed the appreciation of the Committee to him and the other volunteers for all their work. He stated that he has lived for 28 years across from Linden Grove Cemetery. He and his family have cleaned up the cemetery and would like to continue the upkeep there.

Adjourn - Mr. Gillespie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Schmid seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously with Janet Jones, Dale Weber, John Bell, Mark Schmid, Tim Gillespie and Betty Slade voting aye in a roll call vote.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 10, 2022 to be held via Google Meet, unless otherwise decided.

Town Meeting will be held on May 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria I. Branco, Clerk
Community Preservation Committee

APPROVED: 
Betty Slade, Chair

Attachments:

CPC Minutes of January 13, 2022

Annual Report of 2021

Contract with Eric Dray

Contract with Jonathan Appell

First Draft of Warrant Article for Town Meeting

Bill from Troy Rebello

Bill from Community Preservation Coalition

Updated Table on CR and APRs Using CPA Funding

Updated Table on Allocation of CPA Funds Since 2002

CPC FAQ Draft for CPC webpage on Town Website