

Town of Ayer
Community Preservation Committee

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432

Minutes for 6/3/2015 - Approved 7/1/2015

Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor

Members present: Janet Providakes (JP) [Housing Authority]- Chair, Beth Suedmeyer (BAS) [At Large], Barry Schwarzel (BES) [Historical Commission], Richard Durand (RD) [Parks & Recreation], Jess Gugino (JG) [Conservation Commission]- Clerk

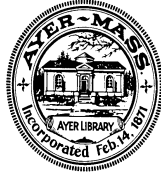
Not present: Jenn Gibbons (JRG) [Planning Board], Vacancy [At Large]

APAC taped: NO

6:10 PM – Open Meeting

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - BES moved to accept the minutes for 5/6/15 as written; RD 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

- **New Business**
 - BAS circulated a copy of a letter signed by the Conservation Commission to the Board of Selectmen.
 - The letter asks the BOS to develop a policy and procedure for the handling of Ch. 61 properties.
 - Properties enrolled in Ch. 61 (agricultural or forestry) receive tax breaks, but if they are removed from Ch. 61, towns are entitled to a right of first refusal to purchase.
 - A draft of the letter was prepared by the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRP) and circulated to various boards and committees, including Parks & Recreation and the Planning Board.
 - BAS asked CPC to consider sending a similar letter of support to the BOS.
 - JP agreed and will draft a CPC version for circulation before she signs it.
 - JP will underscore that CPC often hears of the public's desire for more open space land and express CPC's willingness to support open space purchases.
 - JP will also ask that CPC be kept more in the loop on such opportunities.
 - RD moved to send this letter and authorized JP to sign on behalf of CPC; BAS 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - BAS asked CPC to put the consideration of renewing Ayer CPC's Community Preservation Plan on one of its future agendas.
 - Public outreach could be coordinated with the OSRP update.
 - CPC will also review and update its current application form as well as grant agreement on future agendas.
 - One thing to add is a requirement for project display signage explicitly crediting the use of CPA-granted funds.



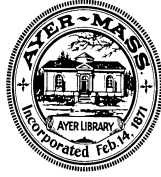
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- JP will contact Habitat for Humanity to ask them to update their sign which, at present, only credits the Town generally for funding support.

- **Accounts Payable**
 - Habitat for Humanity: \$16,735.45, “Central Avenue Ayer Duplex Housing Unit Construction” (\$100,000 in CPA funds approved Fall Town Meeting 2014)
 - The composite statement received from Habitat for reimbursement of expenses broke down as follows:
 - Giguere & Defresne Concrete Foundations, Inc. \$6500.00 (invoice dated 4/18/15)
 - Maki Building Centers \$1645.41 (consolidated statement 4/30/15)
 - Moore Lumber & Hardware \$1744.09
 - (invoice # 165491, 5/2/15: \$320.32)
 - (invoice # 165783, 5/5/15: \$251.56)
 - (invoice # 166233, 5/8/15: \$148.77)
 - (invoice # 166246, 5/8/15: \$47.76)
 - (invoice # 166314, 5/8/15: \$208.60)
 - (invoice # 167816, 5/21/15: \$289.00)
 - (invoice # 168038, 5/22/15: \$478.08)
 - Northeast Sanitation Corp. \$101.00 (invoice # A-111578, 5/6/15)
 - SMT Plumbing & Hearing \$1950.00 (invoice # 23, 4/26/15)
 - Sterling Concrete \$4704.00
 - (invoice # 58203, 4/28/15: \$2378.25)
 - (invoice # 58251, 4/29/15: \$2325.75)
 - Triumph Modular Inc. \$90.95 (invoice # R1171697, 5/1/15)
 - BAS moved to approve reimbursement payment of \$16,735.45 to Habitat for Humanity; JG 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - JP estimated that Habitat has approximately \$16,000 left of approved CPA funds from which to draw.



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• **Committee Updates**

○ Historical Commission

- BES said the recent Freedom's Way "Hidden Treasures" weekend was well-received by those who participated in it.
 - Turnout wasn't as high as hoped but the event went well at the Sandy Pond School House.
- On June 27, Ayer will be participating in another Freedom's Way event, this one called "Summer Saunters."
 - This will entail a nature walk from the Rail Trail parking lot to Groton-School Road and back, from 1-5 p.m.
- BES is also working on a self-guiding Ayer map.

○ Housing Authority

- Both new windows and repaving were planned for the Housing Authority/Senior Center on Pond Street, however the cost of the window replacements was higher than anticipated, therefore the paving will not be done this year.
- The Housing Authority is joining a net metering plan for cheaper solar energy.
- BAS asked about adding an agenda item in the future to discuss public usage of the Pleasant Street Pocket Park.
 - Renovation of the Pleasant Street School for low-income elderly housing was completed using CPA funds.
 - This was also the case with the adjacent pocket park, however BAS has heard complaints both from neighbors and as part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update process that kids are being discourage from using the pocket park.
 - JP will inquire about the policies governing use of the park.

○ Parks & Recreation Department

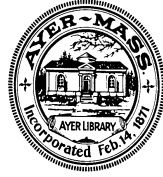
- RD said the Town Beach is up and running.
- The baseball and softball leagues are also up and running.

○ Conservation Commission

- The Comprehensive Survey of Ayer Ponds is close to completion.
 - ConCom will be arranging a joint meeting with the Pond & Dam Committee, and will be inviting CPC as well.

○ Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee

- BAS said the final report for their portion of the work has been received from the Conway School of Landscape Design students.
 - The report is under review by the OSRP Committee and will undergo further public process prior to finalization.
 - JP asked that it eventually be put on the Town website for review.



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- The draft will be put online for public review and comment after it is further refined by the Committee and Town staff.

- **7:12 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - BES moved to adjourn; BAS 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.