

DARTMOUTH

Community Preservation Committee



MASSACHUSETTS

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Howard Baker-Smith, Chairperson
Margaret Latimer, Vice Chairperson
James Bosworth
Michael Kehoe
Elaine Lancaster
Stuart MacGregor
Damon May
Kevin Shea
John Sousa

MINUTES

January 7, 2014

Members present: Margaret Latimer, Vice Chair
Stuart MacGregor
Damon May
Kevin Shea
John Sousa

Members absent: Howard Baker-Smith, Chair
James Bosworth
Michael Kehoe
Elaine Lancaster

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Motion:

Mr. Sousa made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2013 meeting, as written and amended. The motion was seconded and approved by a 5-0 vote.

General business and correspondence were discussed:

The Committee is in receipt of a letter from the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) in support of the Dartmouth Dog Park project. The Town's Annual Report is due February 1, 2014. Mr. Baker-Smith will prepare the CPC's submission.

Mr. Baker-Smith will be receiving an award from the Community Preservation Coalition. A

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presentation will take place at the State House on January 14, 2014. CPC members and others are invited to attend, and carpooling was suggested.

The Town had submitted two eligibility applications to create trusts for open space and historic preservation. These trusts would fund certain expenses for existing projects, including legal costs and unforeseen expenses. Deborah Melino-Wender was present and said the Town will not be pursuing those proposals.

A discussion took place regarding the Parks and Recreation Department. Timothy Lancaster had attended the CPC public hearing in October to offer comment on the Annual Needs Assessment. The Park Board discussed their needs and sent a letter to the CPC providing input. The letter was discussed at the December CPC meeting, and CPC's concerns included whether the parks' replacement needs would constitute maintenance. Mr. Baker-Smith has been in communication with Mr. Lancaster and had invited him to attend the meeting. Mr. Lancaster was unable to attend but responded via email saying in part, "The Park Department does not budget for facility upgrades, as no funds are available for capital improvements and never have been unless funded through a grant process. It would be a misconception for one to believe the Town appropriates a set funding amount for park capital improvements annually, as the department budget and funding does not allow for such an appropriation."

The change in the CPA was intended to fund large-scale projects in existing parks and not small replacement needs and incidental repairs, which costs the municipality should fund. Mr. Sousa agrees that the Town should fund such expenses. There should be a budget for unforeseen circumstances. The statute was not intended to be a catch-all fund to be capitalized upon as a budget supplement. Mr. MacGregor and Mr. May would consider supporting a tree planting project. The Coalition had responded to an inquiry regarding tree replacement saying they would need more specific information such as the types of trees and the location they would be planted.

A discussion took place regarding the upcoming funding round. Ms. Melino-Wender said the Town will be submitting three applications: the Dartmouth Dog Park, the Housing Rehab Loan Program and the Housing Rehab Loan Administrative Program. Mr. May asked for a status on the Dog Park. Ms. Melino-Wender said a consultant has drawn up a plan. The Stanton Foundation will award the Town a grant to fund a portion of the project cost, but there must be a commitment from the Town—Town Meeting vote—that it will fund the remaining portion of the cost.

A discussion took place regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for the Russell Garrison project. Town Counsel had said that a separate grant application for the endowment would be necessary. Mr. Saginor from Coalition had not heard of any other CPA community "having to take this route on preservation restrictions." He thinks it should not be a problem since it is not unheard of for a project sponsor to return for additional CPA funding. The Historical Commission will be returning \$5,000 from its project grant award and will be applying for a new grant for \$5,000 to fund the endowment. The Commission has not yet approved the MOU.

Project Updates:

The Newfield Farm Grant Agreement has been approved by DNRT and has been returned for signatures from Mr. Baker-Smith and David Cressman.

Apponegansett Park II -- the land acquisition is complete.

Ms. Latimer circulated a corrected bill from Attorney Savastano. The amount due is \$1,557.50. A brief discussion followed.

Motion:

Mr. Sousa made a motion to approve the invoice from Attorney Savastano. The motion was seconded and approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. MacGregor recently visited the Cornell Farm and said new property connection bridges have been constructed, one of which is a hanging bridge. He was pleased with the work and suggested the other members visit the site. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Latimer asked for an update on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Mr. MacGregor said there will be a public hearing at the Quinn School in two weeks. The results of the survey will be presented as well as the direction of the goals and objectives. There were approximately 375 responses to the survey. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Latimer assigned February 4, 2014 as the date for the next meeting.

Motion:

Mr. Sousa made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by a 5-0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan D. Dorschied
Administrative Clerk

Approved,



Howard Baker-Smith
Chair