

MINUTES

December 1, 2009

Members present: Howard Baker-Smith, Chair
 Jacquelyn McDonald, Vice Chair
 Mark Lawton
 Stuart MacGregor
 Nancy Thornton
 Barry Walker

Members absent: Charles Sisson
 John Sousa
 Lisa Tavares

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

Motion:

Ms. McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by a 6-0 vote.

Julie Larry, Principal of ttl Architects was in attendance. ttl was awarded the contract for the Historical Inventory Phase II. A discussion took place. Mr. Baker-Smith executed two copies of the Service Agreement for the Inventory as did Ms. Larry. The contracts will be forwarded to the Executive Administrator for his signature.

A discussion took place regarding the Needs Assessment. Timothy Lancaster, Superintendent of Parks and Director of Recreation, was in attendance and spoke about open space and recreation. Dartmouth's parks are in need of work. The Park Board has sought CPA funding in the past, but the statute prohibits those funds from being used to rehabilitate existing parks. Communities are actively working to change the law. Mr. Lancaster anticipates this will happen soon. He also stated there is a need for additional athletics space within the Town. A study has been done using CPA funds to determine interest in building a sporting facility. The study showed that Town residents are in favor of building a facility, however, the sentiment of the various Town's sports organizations was that they did not want to centralize.

Mr. Lancaster indicated there is a need for more waterfront access. The Park Department would like to have maps available showing the locations of Dartmouth's parks and recreational areas. There is some interest in developing a dog park as well as a skate park.

Dexter Meade, Executive Director of the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, was in attendance and spoke about open space. DNRT has protected 431 acres of land in Dartmouth. There are several additional conservation restriction acquisitions currently pending. Mr. Meade gave an

update on the Cornell Farm Project. The land has been acquired by the Trustees of Reservations. The conservation restriction is pending.

Mr. Meade referred to a map he brought showing existing protected properties and target areas. DNRT had printed a guide book mapping out all publicly accessible properties in Dartmouth. It plans to update the guide next year. There are maps available on line. Visitors have found paper maps and guides to be good resources.

Mrs. Thornton asked Mr. Meade about a sign that has been placed at Star of the Sea Drive that says "Private Way." DNRT property is located on the Drive, and Mrs. Thornton is concerned the public may be deterred from accessing it. Mr. Meade hasn't heard of any complaints. DNRT will be enhancing the property next year. He will look into the matter. Mr. Walker inquired as to how restrictions are enforced. DNRT has legal defense funds, and the Land Trust Alliance is beginning a national defense insurance program. DNRT has had no problems to date, but it is aware that properties change owners over time and that there is a possibility a restriction could be breached. They monitor properties annually.

A discussion took place regarding housing. Mr. Baker-Smith had invited Constance Desbiens, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, to attend the meeting. She responded with a letter stating she would be unable to attend but offered her insight. The low-income elderly housing in Dartmouth has serious upkeep concerns. State funding is low. Properties are deteriorating. The Authority may apply for CPA funds in the coming year to aid in restoring properties. Mr. Baker-Smith will invite Ms. Desbiens and Housing Authority Members to attend a future meeting to discuss their vision for the next three years. Ms. McDonald feels the Housing Authority needs to seek funding more aggressively from State and Federal sources.

Mr. Baker-Smith distributed a document regarding Chapter 40B Standardized Housing Inventory as reflected in the local communities. A discussion followed.

The CPC will discuss Historic Preservation at its January meeting. The Needs Assessment will be reviewed and discussed in its entirety. Revisions, if any, will be made at that time.

Mr. Baker-Smith is in receipt of the Grant Agreement for the Stone Barn Farm Project. He signed two copies and will forward them to Mr. Iacaponi for his signature. Mr. Baker-Smith has sent an award letter to the Waterways Commission regarding the Clark's Cove Access Project III. It has been recommended that the three grants be consolidated into one.

Mr. Walker raised a concern about open space in the Needs Assessment. The Town may be creating too many property regulations. Residents may be subjected to numerous provisions, some of which they may be unaware of. Mr. Baker-Smith feels the CPC should not be a regulatory board. A discussion followed. Ms. McDonald commented on the protected areas of Dartmouth that Mr. Meade had spoken about. She agrees that people need to know about

them, but she is concerned that too much publicity could cause an abundance of visitors which may negatively impact the properties.

Mr. Walker has announced he will be stepping down as a Committee Member. He has accepted a position on the Finance Committee. Mr. Baker-Smith thanked him for his service to the CPC. Mr. Walker stated he may seek the role of liaison between the Finance Committee and the CPC. Mr. Baker-Smith has been making efforts to seek interested individuals to recommend to the Selectboard as CPC candidates. Mr. Sisson, the representative from the Housing Authority, has been unable to attend meetings. Mr. Baker-Smith will contact Mr. Sisson to see if he wishes to remain a Member or if he would prefer to step down.

Mr. Baker-Smith is in receipt of a letter from David Cressman, Executive Administrator, asking that the CPC delegate a member to the Agricultural Preservation Trust Council. He will contact Mr. Cressman to discuss the matter.

Mr. Baker-Smith assigned January 5, 2010 as the next meeting date. Mr. MacGregor wishes to invite the artist who had produced the sample design for the CPC logo. Mr. Baker-Smith will add him to the agenda, should he be able to attend.

Motion:

Mrs. Thornton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by a 6-0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

Susan D. Dorschied
Administrative Clerk

Howard Baker-Smith
Chairperson