

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes – September 25, 2017

Present: Jim Tusino, Dave Norton, Jim Troiano, Willit Mason, Susan Waddington, Priscilla Dunn, John Alves

Absent: Richard Wallace, David Sullivan

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:01 in the Town Hall kitchen

Jim Troiano will be the new representative from Parks and Recreation and was introduced informally. He has yet to be sworn in so was not eligible to vote at this meeting.

Minutes of the June 12, 2017 meeting were approved as read.

New applications: None presented, although Willit brought up a potential application from the Land Trust concerning land owned by Alicia DeSilva off Read St. The land is in two segments and one is probably of no interest as it was formerly a pig farm and later a repository for junk. However, the northern parcel of 6 1/2 acres is adjacent to the Benson property and has easements to Pine St. It would tie in nicely with the Benson property. This led into a discussion of the Benson property which is on hold with the Board of Selectmen while they study whether there really is an easement. Because we don't know how long the current agreement with the Bensons will be in force, John will consult with the Community Preservation Coalition on our options.

Community Preservation Coalition dues: It was voted to pay our annual dues of \$1750.00 and Bruce Alexander will be so notified.

Results of June 5, 2017 CPC warrant articles. One was the housekeeping article for placing CPA funds in the appropriate boxes. The other was an application from Public Safety for storage and retention of Police and Fire documents – similar to the larger project done for Town Hall and the Library earlier. Both articles passed with near unanimous votes.

Annual report for the Department of Revenue: has been filed. It's a record of all of our projects indicating their status: Incomplete, Finished.

Member comments:

The Chair began by reading a letter from Dave Sullivan listing his concerns. (A copy is attached to the minutes):

1. He asked the Committee to bring up the Crandall property on the corner of Chestnut and Hope. An application would probably need to come from either Parks and Recreation or the Land Trust. The latter reviewed this land a few years ago and decided not to pursue the matter because of wetlands and other issues.

2. He asked for a broader discussion of CPC being more active in soliciting proposals for recreation and historic preservation. We do this somewhat through our public hearing and various articles in the Seekonk Reporter. Hopefully the publicity and actions from the Open Space Parks and recreation working group will produce some applications. Dave Norton notes below that the Historic Preservation Commission now has a quorum and can proceed with actions.

3. The Committee should have a discussion of actions by the Open Space Parks and Recreation Committee.

Jim Troiano – Wanted to know how Recreation needs can be met by the CPA. It was suggested that he go to the Community Preservation Commission web site and research the projects already done in this area. Can the soccer field on the Cole St. grounds be rehabbed with CPA money?

Dave Norton – the Historical Commission finally has a quorum and can pursue further applications. He will talk to Mike Markley (Commission Chair) about the status of Old Town Hall.

Priscilla – serves as the Community Garden coordinator. The garden still needs a supply of water. People must bring in their own and this is an inhibitor for gardeners who don't live at Seekonk Commons. Can Parks and Recreation spearhead some sort of action in this area?

The gardens are not an official town committee so would need help from a body with access to funds.

Next meeting: December 4, 2017 – Time 7:30; Place TBD

Adjournment: 9:04

Respectfully submitted

Susan R. Waddington
CPC Clerk