

# SEEKONK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting April 4, 2011

Present: Willit Mason, John Alves, Ron Blum, Dave Pinsonneault, Richard Wallace, Susan Waddington

Absent: Tom Clancy, Jim Tusino, Judy Johnson

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Ron Blum, at 7:32.

## *Old business:*

1. The minutes of our March 7 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Review of Town Meeting approved projects:
  - a. \$150,000 has been paid for the Arcade Ave. land. The Seekonk Land Trust still needs to be reimbursed for the appraisal, but we need to be sure that closing costs are covered before the check is cut. Hope to have this resolved by our next meeting.
  - b. The firm selected for the Design and Engineering study for the Old Town Hall was accepted by the BOS. The Historical Commission expects to have results in time to move ahead on actual construction proposals for the Fall Town Meeting. The Chair will check with Dan Horton to find out the exact status of a tenant for the building.

## *New business:*

1. The Committee unanimously approved keeping the percentages for our funds as before:

5%	Administrative
10%	Open space
10%	Historical
10%	Affordable community housing
65%	Budgeted reserve

Actual amounts will be provided by the Finance Director and included in the Warrant article.

2. There were no new applications – we are within the 120 day limit for applications.
3. At our March meeting we approved an application from the Seekonk Land Trust and Conservation Commission for an amount up to \$16,000 for Trails planning and permitting. At this meeting we agreed that the money should come from the Budgeted Reserve as the project is within the Recreation category. I will send this information to the CIC and Finance Committees to keep them informed and supportive.
4. The Planning Board is interested in possible Affordable Community Housing projects. One might be on land owned by the Town at the corner of Gude & Taunton Ave. Ron ascertained from Stuart Saginor that Habitat for Humanity could apply for CPC funds, but Town Counsel should be involved. John mentioned that many towns form a Housing Trust which enables the CPC to move more effectively when planning projects. John agreed to contact the Community Preservation Circuit Rider for housing to see if she can come to one of our meetings – sooner rather than later. A discussion ensued about possible projects for the Fall Town Meeting – all very tenuous at this time.

5 Around the table:

- a. Richard suggested we look into reverse mortgages as a possible Affordable Community Housing strategy.
- b. Dave announced that due to a promotion in Lexington he is stepping down from the committee. Bob Richardson is expected to be confirmed as his replacement.
- c. John announced that the Planning Board is holding a hearing on the updated Town Master Plan on May 3 at the Seekonk Public Library.
- d. John mentioned the importance of having signage for our CPC projects.
- e. John and I attended a very profitable CPA workshop at Bridgewater State University on April 2. A copy of my report was distributed with this meeting's agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Next meeting – May 2 Planning Board Room – 7:00 pm

Susan R. Waddington, clerk