

SEEKONK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes – January 14, 2013

Present: John Alves, Willit Mason, Neal Abelson, Priscilla Dunn, Jason Adamonis, Richard Wallace, Susan Waddington

Absent: (Historic Commission, Housing Authority) vacant positions

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair, John Alves.

Minutes of the November 26, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

Committee membership: John has had no success in getting action from either the Housing Authority or the Chair of the Historical Commission, although he has written to the former and tried unsuccessfully to contact Dan Horton (Historical Commission). He will continue to pursue and impress upon the Town Administrator the need to fill out Committee appointments. Sandy Foulkes will not be returning to the Committee so Neal Abelson will discuss the need for a replacement at the next Planning Board meeting.

Old Town Hall: John will check with the town Finance Director, Bruce Alexander, to be sure that the \$30,000 balance from the original appropriation remains open for the specific use of that appropriation. The \$100,000 approved at the June 2012 meeting cannot be combined with these funds. We had a wide ranging discussion over the RFP prepared by the Town Administrator for this project. Nowhere in the RFP is the roof mentioned, although in our April 23 minutes the need to make the building elements tight was clearly expressed. John will see the Town Administrator about our concerns and also revisit the warrant article. Richard Wallace emphasized the need for us to be sure in future warrant articles that the wording clearing matches the Committee's intent.

Establishing Conservation and Affordable Housing Trusts: The Committee feels that both are important for the successful implementation of future projects in these areas when timeliness is often critical and it is likely that we'll be asked for larger sums of money at times when waiting for a Town Meeting would negatively impact our ability to act. Susan volunteered to contact Stuart Saginor for practical tips on how to proceed in this area.

Works in progress:

Arcade Ave. Trails: Peter Jensen has a preliminary plan and there will be a walk on January 24th for those involved. Kelley Whitmore will apply for a \$50,000 state grant to fund the construction which might take place in stages.

Cuddigan property: The appraisal is complete and is being review by the APR folks. Willit hopes to receive the estimated value by the end of February

Water fountain on Cole St.: Jason reported that Parks and Recreation will probably have an application.

Documents project: The work will begin on February 4, 2013

Habitat for Humanity: Hopes to begin advertising within a month.

Current applications: None

Web page: Susan asked if there were suggestions for improving this site. She will ask Bruce Alexander to update the membership list and also to push email responses from that page to her home email. It gets very little use, so we need to be sure to keep on top of those communications we do receive.

Committee comments;

Willit: The confusion over the Town Hall RFP is a learning lesson for us. We need to be sure the warrant article is specific – and to have a back up plan for following through if the successful applicant does not do so. Also a time frame for performing the necessary work.

Priscilla: Priscilla described the difficulties the town sponsored Community Gardens are having with the Housing Authority over water use and asked committee members for advice. The general agreement was that she should push for a water meter just for the Gardens to establish just how much water was being used.

Public comments: No members of the public in attendance.

Next meeting: March 4, 7:30 Place TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Susan R. Waddington, Clerk