

**TOWN OF STOW
Community Preservation Committee**

Minutes, March 2, 2015

Community Preservation Committee Meeting

Community Preservation Committee members present: Kathy Sferra (chair), Dot Spaulding, Louise Nejad, Bill Byron, Cortni Frecha, Bob Larkin, Mike Busch and Vin Antil.

Admin. Assistant: Krista Bracci

Not Present: Rich Eckel

The meeting began with a quorum at 7:35 pm.

BILLS & MINUTES

VOTE: Bob made a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2015 as amended, Dot seconded, the vote was 5 - 0.

VOTE: Bob made a motion to approve an invoice from the Community Preservation Coalition in the amount of \$1,750 (2015 Dues), Cortni seconded, the vote was 5 - 0.

VOTE: Bob made a motion to approve an invoice from Marshall Gary in the amount of \$9,940 (Pine Bluff Design Fund Project), Cortni seconded, the vote was 5 - 0.

CPA FACT SHEET

This document was located on the CPC website and needed to be updated. Krista and Kathy made the necessary changes, but are still waiting on some final numbers from the town accountant (what town meeting has appropriated for CPA projects to date). Kathy mentioned that these particular numbers should reflect project funds that have not been rescinded. Once they receive the correct numbers the document will be placed back on the CPC website.

VOTE: Bob made a motion to approve the CPA Fact Sheet with the current numbers from the town accountant, Dot seconded, the vote was 5 - 0.

DUNN CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

VOTE: Cortni made a motion to expend up to \$28,500 for the Dunn Conservation Restriction, Bob seconded, the vote was 5 - 0.

Mike and Vin joined the meeting at 7:40 pm.

LOWER VILLAGE COMMON INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY PROPOSAL

Karen Kelleher from the Planning Board made a presentation on this project and supplied the committee with three quotes. The Massachusetts Historic Commission requires that this study is conducted before

any drainage work can be done on a section of Route 117. There are a number of historic buildings in the area and we need to be sure there are not any archeological deposits that would require protection.

- PARP (\$7,300) - this quote does not include mapping
- Gray & Pape, Inc. (\$17,540) - this quote went beyond the scope of what was being asked
- PAL (\$8,913) - this company came highly recommended and is the Board's first choice

Bill joined the meeting at 7:55 pm.

DISCUSSION:

- This project needs to be started as soon as the snow melts, therefore the project request cannot wait for the Annual Town Meeting.
- By using CPA Administrative Funds this project could start immediately and it fits within the scope of permitted administrative projects.

VOTE: Bob made a motion to approve up to \$8,913 of CPA Administrative Funds for the Lower Village Archaeological Survey, Mike seconded. The vote was unanimous.

CPC SIGN

Krista supplied the committee with three quotes from two different vendors.

DISCUSSION:

- The committee liked the idea of the 50 cardboard signs over the plastic ones.
- There are approximately twelve locations that need signage so that town residents can see how CPA funds are being put to use.
- The signs will be placed at various projects a few weeks prior to the Annual Town Meeting.
- It was mentioned that the link on the sample sign does work.
- CPA funds will need to be moved within the administrative accounts because there is not enough funds to cover the entire purchase in the printing account. Krista will follow up with Bill.
- The members would like to make sure the vendor has the file in a format he can work with.
- The need for 50 holders was discussed. The committee would prefer to only purchase 25 at this time.

VOTE: Bob made a motion to approve up to \$450 for new CPC signs/holders, Cortni seconded. The vote was unanimous.

ACTION ITEM: Krista will contact the vendor and place the order for the signs/holders. She will report back to the committee members with the order specifics and the completion date.

NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Kathy recused herself from the CPC for these presentations and Cortni stepped in as chair for this portion of the meeting.

Conservation Land Invasive Species Mapping & Phase 1 Restoration at Captain Sargent

Jacquie Goring, Conservation Assistant with the Conservation Commission presented this project proposal. She supplied the committee with an additional handout. The project goal is to map invasive

species at Flagg Hill, Heath Hen, Marble Hill and Town Forest. The other portion of this project is to remove invasive species at Captain Sargent so that native plants can be restored, reduce the risk of ticks carrying Lyme disease and make the area more pleasant for recreational activities.

DISCUSSION:

- Captain Sargent was acquired by the town in 1981 and includes Community Gardens and three active farmers.
- The Conservation Commission plans on having a Captain Sargent Day that will include many fun activities for the town residents. One being how to recognize invasive species and the importance in protecting habitat for the community.
- This project would be a three year project funded out of the Open Space Reserve Fund.
- The total cost would be \$29,000. The CPA portion would be \$25,000 and the balance would come from volunteers such as the Boy Scouts and Bose employees.
- The invasive species Japanese Barberry has been demonstrated to foster Lyme disease. This species is a habitat for mice who carry ticks with Lyme disease.
- Buckthorn another invasive species can be easily removed by volunteers.
- It was estimated that the first year would cover about 80% removal, the second year would be 95% and the third year 99%.
- There is a hope to work on the other land parcels if Captain Sargent is successful.
- The Conservation Committee will monitor Captain Sargent once the project is complete.

VOTE: Bob made a motion to support placing this project on the warrant, Vin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy will draft the warrant and Krista will submit it to the Selectman's office.

Possible Land Acquisition at Captain Sargent

Kathy Sferra and Dick Perkins representing the Conservation Commission and Stow Conservation Trust informed the CPC of a parcel of land that is for sale adjacent to Captain Sargent. The land is a buildable lot that is one and a half acres. The Brewer's currently own the land and are asking \$225,000.

DISCUSSION:

- There is a developer interested in the lot, but the Brewer's would prefer to sell the land to the town.
- If purchased this land would become part of Captain Sargent and would allow relocation of a loop trail off of South Acton Road to a safer location. The parcel also contributes to the sense of openness along South Acton Rd. Many people think it is already conservation land.
- There are not a lot of comps in Stow, however, a 1 1/2 acre lot on Boxborough Road recently sold for \$225,000.
- An appraisal would need to be done prior to Town Meeting.
- The requested CPA portion is \$140,000. The balance would come from Stow Conservation Trust, private donations and the Conservation Fund.

VOTE: Bob made a motion to support placing this project on the warrant, Vin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy will draft the warrant and Krista will submit it to the Selectman's office.

Open Space Acquisition Fund

This project request was deferred to a later date.

NEWS & VIEWS

Kathy rejoined the meeting as Chair.

Kathy is meeting with Melissa to obtain an update on the Randal Library Design Fund Project. She invited Dot to attend the meeting with her.

Krista will contact Linda to invite her back to a CPC meeting. The committee would like to get an update on the Historic Document Preservation Project.

MEETING SCHEDULE

March 23nd

April 13th

April 27th

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm, Dot seconded. The approval was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by: Krista Bracci