

**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Town Hall ~ May 9, 2017
Sturbridge, MA**

Call to Order:

The vice-chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following committee members were present at that time: Michael Serio (MS), James Waddick (JW) Jared Burns (JB), Bruce Boyson (BB); Larry Morrison (LM), Mike Hager (MH). Joni Light (JL) arrived at 7:02pm. Kathy Neal (KN) arrived at 7:29pm.

Guests: Barbara Barry (BB), Glenn Colburn (GC), Carol Goodwin (CG), Ed Goodwin (EG), Barbara Search (BS), Penny Dumas (PD), Kadion Phillips (KP), Heather Hart (HH)

Review of Meeting Minutes

JW moved the motion to accept the minutes of April 27, 2017 as written; LM seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-1 (JB abstained).

JW moved the motion to accept the minutes of May 2, 2017 as written; BB seconds. Motion accepted 5-0-2 (JB, LM abstained).

JW moved the motion to accept the minutes of May 2, 2017 as amended; JB seconds. Motion accepted 5-0-2 (MH, LM abstained).

There was housekeeping discussion on the warrant articles by way of format for the impending book printing. LM wanted to ensure article titles and summary boxes were accurate. MS discussed some of the topics for the essay section of the book.

Open Space Plan – Article 25 (revised to be Article 24) – Carol Goodwin

CG explained the consulting services to the committee stating that additional work is generally required to complete a review of the maps and other administrative documents required by the state. Such reviews are necessary to apply for grants. The last time a complete review was done was during the 2011 review of the Master Plan. Reviews are done every 5 to 7 years.

JW moved the motion to accept Article 25 (24) – Open Space Plan as written; JL seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.

Community Preservation – Open Space Acquisition Borrowing – Article 7 – Community Preservation Commission

PD was present along with other members of the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) to answer questions on the town's Right of First Refusal (RFR) for the Douty Road parcel, and to answer other questions on the CPC budget. Financial reports and parcel maps were distributed to the committee. KN asked for a breakdown of what has been spent in each of the budget categories: Undesignated Fund, Open Space Fund, Historic Resources Fund, and Community Housing Fund. PD said all the activity can be found online and shared the website: www.communitypreservation.org. BB did a review of the financials for the commission and noted that all totals include what is in the FY18 Warrant. There was discussion on the role of the CPC regarding how agricultural properties are identified and prioritized, and who has authorization to move forward to a purchase. JL asked for a list of priority land but it was not available. LM examined the dilemma with community housing and open space, and how more is being spent on open space that, in theory, there may not be enough land to provide for community housing. Discussion moved more specifically to the Douty Road parcel and that the Town Administrator brought it forward to the CPC as a potential RFR. There were comparisons made between the Douty Road parcel and the Plimpton Parcel purchased in FY17. GC spoke on the planned uses of the property if the CPC were to purchase it, and informed the committee that he would like to apply for a land grant. The land grant must be for identified land for passive recreation and a

Conservation Restriction (CR) would be required. There is a grant available if a portion of the land is to be used for active recreation. The borrowing article would need to be revised to include the land grant and would likely be written similarly to the Plimpton Parcel article.

There was continued discussion and debate on the land and potential uses, including active recreation and potential ball fields for the town. There was dialogue about the subsequent development option that is waiting on this vote. PD explained that the developer is offering half of the property to the town for open space, yet it is not in writing, and the development plan has changed each time the developer brought it to town committees.

MS moved the motion to accept Article 7 Open Space Acquisition Borrowing as written; JL seconds. Motion failed 3-5-0 (JW, KN, JB, BB, MH in opposition).

No Old Business/No New Business/No Public Access

MH moved the motion to adjourn at 9:50pm; MS seconds. Meeting adjourned.

/jml