

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

7:00 PM October 15, 2014
Holliston Town Hall, Room 019

MINUTES

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Attending: Frank Chamberlain (chair); Chris Bajdek; Warren Chamberlain; Rachel Kane; Melissa Kaspern; Michael Pelon.

Also attending: Paul Saulnier

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes was postponed to the next meeting

Public Hearing

There were no public comments

Open Space Committee Request

VOTE **Moved:** To confirm the vote to recommend request for \$488,000 to support the purchase of 33.2 acres of farm/forestland located at 34 Rogers Rd., Holliston. Total project cost: \$588,000. Approval shall expire in 12 months. Additional funding source: Open Space Fund.

Approved: 6

Opposed: 0

Rail Trail Committee Request

VOTE **Moved:** To confirm the vote to recommend the request for up to \$690,000 for the purchase of CSX right-of-way from Cross St. to Hopping Brook Road (2-miles, 15.5 acres). Funding will include land cost, title, legal and environmental fees. Approval shall expire in 18 months.

Approved: 6

Opposed: 0

VOTE **Moved:** To confirm the vote to recommend request for amendment of the October, 2013 appropriation in the amount of \$79,260 to permit the funds to be used to support the design and construction of trail-related improvements, including crossing signals and signage, handrails, bridges, interpretive posts and signage, drainage and landscape improvements.

Approved: 6

Opposed: 0

Housing Trust Request

VOTE **Moved:** To provide for up to a \$100,000 increase to the \$200,000 appropriated at the May, 2014 town meeting (new total, \$300,000) to support the Holliston Housing Trust's programs to provide affordable housing in Holliston and for the administrative and contract support thereof, with the restriction that no more than \$50,000 be available immediately, and that the balance be available upon the demonstration of a reasonable need for the additional funds. This request is intended to offset an identified budget shortfall resulting primarily from the timing of current projects.

Approved: 6

Opposed: 0

Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust Request(s)

Paul Saulnier reported that the Kiosks approved in 2012 are now completed. Erin Porter will donate the graphics for posters, photographs, and maps. There will be some Trail Committee materials. A woodland management study by a forester will lead to cutting some trees, and the materials will explain to the public what is going on. The original grant was \$1200 and expired July 2014. Upper Charles Trust has funded \$400. CPC will ask Town Meeting to extend the funding to allow the additional \$400 to be used for signage to complete the project.

VOTE **Moved:** To consider a request to extend the appropriation in the amount of \$1,200 from the Open Space Reserve approved at the May 7, 2012 Town Meeting to provide materials for the construction of four kiosks at the entrances to Wenakeening Woods and amend the appropriation to allow the use of remaining funds for the printing of maps and signage for the five kiosks. This is contingent upon approval by the Conservation Committee, The Board of Health, and the Trustees of Reservations.

Approved: 6

Opposed: 0

VOTE **Moved:** To provide up to \$2,000 to install “beaver deceivers” in the pond at Wenakeening Woods to reduce flooding at adjacent recreational land (Mission Springs baseball field).

Approved: 6

Opposed: 0

Community Preservation Plan

Further discussion of the Plan is postponed to the next meeting, with the intention that the Plan would be complete before the end of the year, by November 15.

New Business

Paul Saulnier reviewed what Beaver Deceivers are and how they work; they prevent the beavers from raising the water level. There were already some installed in town, paid for by the Parks Department and installed by HYBSA. There is a now another beaver dam in Wenakeening Woods, downstream from the baseball field. CPA funds may be used to preserve recreational space, so the Committee could approve the grant. With the CPC’s approval of up to \$2000 for the bid, Mr. Saulnier stated, the Upper Charles Conservation Land Trust might fund part of the cost. Their Board of Directors generally prefers not to use the only other alternative – to kill the beavers. The estimated cost is \$2,000. The Conservation Committee restriction will be considered. The ten-day permit from the board of health may be extended for ten days.

The next meeting will take place after the fall Town Meeting.
Upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Woodrow

Date Approved: February 25, 2015