

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday February 27, 2017 7:30 P.M.

Holliston Town Hall, Room 19

MINUTES

The Chairman convened the meeting at 7:40.

Attending: Frank Chamberlain (chair), Chris Bajdek, Warren Chamberlain, Melissa Kaspern, Michael Pelon, Eva Stahl, John Vosburg

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

CPC Leadership. Frank Chamberlain introduced the idea of moving the CPC to the care of a new chairperson.

Updates on Current CPC Projects

The Committee reviewed a list of the projects that are currently underway or have been finished.

- **Parks & Recreation** - Tennis courts. The bids are out and the Parks Department will be meeting tomorrow night. They hope to be finished by summer. Ms. Kaspern reported on progress with the proposal for professional services by Beals and Thomas to create a management plan.
- **Wenakeening Woods** - Paul Saulnier is scheduled to come in next week to give an update.
- **Historical Town records** - Town records are currently stored in three locations: Town Hall, 1750 Washington Street and the Holliston Library. There are calls to digitize it and organize it all together.
- **Conservation Commission** - Mr. Bajdek reviewed projects that should become a larger management plan for Lake Winthrop.
- **Housing Trust** - Warren Chamberlain reported that not much was happening at the moment. Habitat for Humanity fundraising is going more slowly than expected.
- **Open Space** - Mr. Vosburg answered inquiries about an Agricultural Preservation Restriction being considered on the Norfolk Street Koshivas property.

Eight-Arch Bridge Update

Mary Greendale and Jay Robinson, project manager, made a presentation about the project.

They covered the history, the people working on identifying issues and troubleshooting solutions, the cost estimates, and the procedures that will be followed to accomplish restoration and maintenance. Mr. Robinson stated that the critical success criterion was to accommodate people and not trains or cars; to "keep it simple." There will be a new cement covering on the bridge to direct water off. Railings will be in an appropriate historical style, while assuring safety. The surface will be stone dust. Their estimate of the total cost is currently \$500,000-\$550,000.

There are two main obstacles. The first is the CSX rail-banking clause in the purchase agreement. The railroad can take back the tracks. Therefore there is a cloud on the title. To meet CPA needs, there will be a contingency on the title that the funds, if ever reimbursed to the Town by CSX, would go back to the CPC.

Secondly, funding must not come from state, or it would require the trail to be train-ready. Therefore all grants must be only Town funded. The Town Accountant can isolate Holliston funds in our reserves. Several aspects of the project fit CPA guidelines. The deck and rail are open space recreation. The Coping is restoration.

Mary Greendale answered a number of questions about research that was done by the non-profit into structural details, contractors' estimates, and expected timelines. The non-profit or the town committee can enter the bidding process and a contractor. They have already spent that money and they know the bridge. The law doesn't require a new bid for construction once the 100% plans have been done.

Timeline: The request for funds will come to the May Town Meeting. Actual Construction only takes eight weeks, but multiple departments in town will have to cooperate to bring the project to Town Meeting. Ms. Greendale suggested fall or winter might be a goal.

The CPC would present a request to fund its portion of the project from its CPA reserves. Grants could be made by the CPC in chunks over several years. Ms. Greendale noted that there aren't many options so the cost won't vary much, and she expects to return to the April 3 public meeting with the actual figures for the proposal. Before then, Frank Chamberlain will talk with Stuart Saginaw at the Massachusetts CPA. The Committee agreed that the Town is strongly supportive of this effort to expand the Rail Trail. The Trail committee is already starting to work on this section. Two Eagle Scout projects will continue the progress this spring.

New Business.

There was no new business.

The next meeting will be held on Monday March 27, 2017, at 7:30 P.M.

Upon a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Woodrow

Date Approved: March 27, 2017