

TOWN of HOLLISTON
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 7:30 P.M.

Holliston Town Hall, Room 014

MEETING MINUTES

The Chairman convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Attending: Frank Chamberlain (chair), Chris Bajdek, Warren Chamberlain, Thomas Dumas, Melissa Kaspern, Michael Pelon,

Absent: Eva Stahl, John Vosburg

Also Present: Mark Frank, Terri Stiffler

Agenda Items

1. CPA Public Hearing

- Terri Stiffler commented that she had followed the discussion about the Thistle Dew agricultural acquisition in Town, and that she felt this would be beneficial to all. Frank Chamberlain summarized the work that the CPA is able to accomplish in general, to stretch the tax dollars.
- Mr. Pelon asked whether the Parks Department could charge for use of Town land to supplement CPA funding. Mr. Frank explained how the formula for field maintenance has evolved to a point where now the Highway Department does not do it, as it has done in the past.
- The Public Hearing was closed at 7:47.

2. Final discussion and vote on project recommendations for Special Town Meeting

a. Playing Field Renovations – (Parks and Rec. Dept.)

- The Parks request has changed, with the dollar amount decreasing from \$120,000 to \$100,000. Mark Frank attended the meeting to discuss the changes. He reviewed the Stoddard map and presented the revised application, with the details about why and how the project has been modified.
- There was a discussion of how the ownership and maintenance of public and school fields sometimes crosses, and affects funding and access now and in the future. Ms. Kaspern stated that after the facilities manager is hired, there should be more clarity about management of all the Town's fields
- Frank Chamberlain had prepared a spreadsheet showing how the funds are to be used, in order to reflect the revised proposal and to make the bids from the two vendors somewhat consistent, so the Committee could see what is happening in each location. There was a detailed discussion of the line items.

b. Review of Parks and Recreation Master Plan - (Parks and Rec. Dept.)

Discussion of the plan focussed on the benefit to the Parks Department of carefully estimating needs, priorities and costs for the future. The CPC could be involved in actions the Department may propose, and would be able to provide advice for which projects might be funded within the CPA guidelines.

c. Agricultural Easement Acquisition – Thistle Dew Farm (Open Space Committee)

- Frank Chamberlain reported that he had walked the land with with representatives the Finance Committee, the Open Space Committee, and the Conservation Committee, along with A.J. Connors of Outpost Farm, the potential owner. He saw several fields and heard about how the space would be used. Outpost and Sudbury Valley Trustees are in discussions about expanding trails. The neighboring Waseeka property is owned by Audubon. There is a possibility that the Warren Woods and Poitras properties might eventually connect into a huge contiguous open space that could be preserved and used by the public.
- The current understanding is that the Town of Ashland supports this use of the land that crosses their town border.

d. Barn Kitchen Hood – (Historical Society)

The hood would be tied into the fire alarm; members of the Committee discussed whether the use falls in line with CPA guidelines for historic preservation.

d. Fire Alarm Upgrade – (Historical Society)

- Frank Chamberlain referred to the CPA Statute guidelines for the definition of "preservation." The Committee determined that the investment in protection of the old wooden building was appropriate and beneficial.
- The need to have a Historic Preservation Easement has been brought up repeatedly. Members of the Committee agreed to notify the Historical Society that approval of CPC funds in the future would be contingent upon negotiation and execution that easement. The Board will be invited to a CPC meeting to discuss this.

3. Motions for the Town Meeting Warrant

- Frank Chamberlain reported on the balances in the CPC account as of June 30, 2019:
Designated Funds - unallocated balances - \$2,363,528
Open Space - \$174,415.
Historic Preservation - \$243,343
Community Housing - \$70,718
Non-designated General Fund - \$1,875,051

Articles

- **MOTION:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$15,000 in Fiscal Year 2020 from the Community Preservation Fund's Historic Preservation Reserve for the purpose of assisting the Holliston Historical Society with improvements to its fire alarm system. Mr. Dumas, Second Warren Chamberlain.
VOTE: 6-0-0 Approved
- **MOTION:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$10,000 in Fiscal Year 2020 from the Community Preservation Fund's Historic Preservation Reserve for

the purpose of assisting the Holliston Historical Society with safety-related improvements to its barn kitchen.

Mr. Pelon, Second Mr. Bajdek

VOTE: 2-4-0 Defeated.

- **MOTION:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$174,000 in Fiscal Year 2020 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and \$326,000 from the Community Preservation Fund's General Reserve for the purpose of acquiring an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) in all or part of the parcel of land located off 28 South Street, Ashland, MA containing 28.74 acres more or less.

Ms. Kaspern, Second Mr. Pelon

VOTE: 6-0-0 Approved

- **MOTION:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2020 from the Community Preservation Fund's General Reserve for the purpose of assisting the Holliston Parks and Recreation Department with renovations to youth baseball fields owned by the Town.

Mr. Dumas, Second Warren Chamberlain

VOTE: 6-0-0 Approved

New Business

Mr. Bajdek reported that Chris Westland, of the Community Farm, expressed interest in the use of CPA funds for the future project. She will attend a future CPC meeting to explore options.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting were read and amended as needed.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 10/2/19.

Mr. Bajdek, Second Mr. Dumas

VOTE: 6-0-0 Approved

There is no date scheduled for the next meeting.

Upon unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Woodrow, Clerk