

TOWN of HOLLISTON
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 14, 2022. 7:00 P.M.

Remote Participation Meeting

APPROVED MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 P.M.

Frank Chamberlain read the Opening Statement:

Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c 30A paragraph 20, as well as the Select Board's Emergency Order dated 3/16/2020..... the CPC will be using remote participation for this meeting. The audio of this meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the Town's webpage within 24 hours in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Action requirement of keeping the public informed of actions during this meeting. I would ask that all participants remotely attending this meeting please state your name for identification purposes each time you speak throughout the meeting.

Frank Chamberlain called the roll for each member

Responding Present: Frank Chamberlain, Chair; Thomas Dumas (8:03); Melissa Kaspern; Allen Rutberg; Paul Saulnier; Eva Stahl; Geoffrey Zeamer.

Absent: Warren Chamberlain; John Vosberg.

Also present: Town of Holliston, Sheila Adams representing the Historical Society.

Public Hearing

Frank Chamberlain introduced the Hearing. This is a chance for the general public to join us and raise questions, concerns, issues not on the agenda, or offer opinions on our work. There being no comments and no objections, the Hearing was closed at 7:12.

Update on current status of CPA fund balances.

Frank Chamberlain shared the spreadsheet with the current CPA fund balances for the Town of Holliston. The Town Accountant keeps a detailed record of money in the account. There is about \$2.956M unallocated.

Ms. Kaspern updated the Committee on the plans being developed by the Parks and Recreation Committee for the future.

Frank Chamberlain explained how the CPA works. The Committee vets various projects and makes recommendations to Town Meeting.

Discussion and vote on CPA proposals for October Town meeting.

Historical Society

Ms. Adams was present to speak to the request for \$10,500 to fund a three part proposal for property preservation and restoration:

1. \$5,500 for cleaning and restoration of twelve oil paintings and framing of four oil paintings owned by the Society
2. \$1,000 for the evaluation of a 19th century carriage by a consultant, to report on the feasibility and cost of restoring one of their two carriages for use by the Society and the Town in events. Mark Delliker has offered his help with this effort.
3. \$4,000 for restoration of the two exterior doors on the ell of the Asa Whiting House (Circa 1810).

Frank Chamberlain spoke with the CPA and town counsel about the art restoration and carriage estimate project. There are three conditions, according to the Anti-Aid Amendment:

1. There must be caution about the use of public funds for a non-public purpose.
 - a. Ms. Adams noted that the Society considers the paintings to be assets of the town, and has the intention to host open houses and invite the public in to view them.
 - b. The intended use for the carriages is to use them for the 300th anniversary and then for Town Historic Society events.
2. The Society must get a statement from the Historical Commission about the historical significance to the town.
 - a. The portraits are of significant figures from Holliston's past.
 - b. Mr. Saulnier detailed the history of the carriages and stated that there is a connection to the Whitings. He will ask Joanne Hulbert for more information.
3. There must be documentation of a legal restriction that in the future the Historical Society would not sell the portraits without reimbursing the Town.

Frank Chamberlain stated his concern about spending money for a study for the carriages, given other funding by the CPC for projects that have not worked out. Mr. Saulnier replied that the goal is to restore to a useful condition, rather than to an officially authentic standard, so the likelihood of being able to do the project is high. Mr. Zeamer agreed and expressed confidence in Mr. Delliker. They noted that there are a lot of crafters in New England who can do this work reasonably. Mr. Zeamer asked about how the use of horses would be planned. Mr. Saulnier will write a draft.

Ms. Kaspern noted that the language of the Amendment seems restrictive, and that projects done for the Society have been available to the public.

Frank Chamberlain brought up the repeated discussions of a historic preservation restriction, or a formal agreement that the building would be open to the public. He suggested legal assistance might be needed to put such an agreement in place before Town Meeting.

Mr. Saulnier noted that the time required for such legal work might require not requesting CPA funds this cycle. Ms. Kaspern agreed. Mr. Zeamer suggested an outline and research into the agricultural historical basis for these types of

projects. Ms. Adams agreed that with all the legal requirements, the carriage project would not be ready to proceed in time for the October Town Meeting.

Mr. Saulnier stated they would withdraw that request.

Frank Chamberlain suggested a recommendation of restoration of the portraits subject to a determination that they are historically significant, and to a reimbursement/preservation agreement with town counsel. Ms. Kaspern agreed.

There was a discussion of the repair of the doors.

There was a discussion about how to satisfy the conditions of the Amendment and yet still provide money for Historical Societies for various purposes.

MOTION to recommend up to \$5,500 for cleaning and restoration of twelve oil paintings and framing of four oil paintings owned by the Historical Society, contingent upon a finding of the historical significance by the Historical Commission and subject to the execution of a reimbursement agreement with the Town of Holliston in the event of sale, with a sunset of twelve months: Frank Chamberlain.

Second: Ms. Kaspern

VOTE Approved by roll call: Frank Chamberlain, aye. Mr. Dumas, aye. Ms. Kaspern, aye. Ms. Stahl, aye. Mr. Saulnier, aye. Mr. Rutberg, aye. Mr. Zeamer, aye.

MOTION to recommend up to \$4,000 for restoration of the two exterior doors on the ell of the Asa Whiting House, subject to further discussion of a permanent preservation agreement and to documentation of a public benefit, with a sunset 12 months: Frank Chamberlain

Second: Mr. Saulnier

VOTE Approved by roll call: Frank Chamberlain, aye. Mr. Dumas, aye. Ms. Kaspern, aye. Ms. Stahl, aye. Mr. Saulnier, aye. Mr. Rutberg, aye. Mr. Zeamer, aye.

Conservation Commission (Eagle Scout Project)

MOTION to recommend release \$666.40 to reimburse Liam Savage for supplies and materials for his Eagle Project on the Poitras Conservation Land, done on April 2, 2022: Mr. Dumas

Second: Mr. Zeamer

VOTE Approved by roll call: Frank Chamberlain, aye. Mr. Dumas, aye. Ms. Kaspern, aye. Mr. Saulnier, aye. Mr. Rutberg, aye. Mr. Zeamer, aye.

Frank Chamberlain updated the Committee on the status of the Community Farm conservation restriction and how the committee might fund their projects. There was a discussion.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve the minutes of September 14, 2022 as read: Mr. Saulnier

Second: Mr. Zeamer

VOTE Approved by roll call: Frank Chamberlain, aye. Mr. Dumas, aye. Ms.

Kasperm, aye. Mr. Saulnier, aye. Mr. Rutberg, aye. Mr. Zeamer, aye.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Mr.Saulnier

Second: Ms. Kasperm

VOTE Approved by roll call: Frank Chamberlain, aye. Mr. Dumas, aye. Ms. Kasperm,
aye. Mr. Saulnier, aye. Mr. Rutberg, aye. Mr. Zeamer, aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Woodrow

Clerk