

Community Preservation Committee

January 14, 2021

Meeting called to order at 12:05

Present: Allen Hanson, Rita Farrell, Elaine Puleo, Linda Avis Scott, John Walter

Missing: Margie Tighe-Saporito, Michael DeChiara

MINUTES

Motion to accept Minutes of 12-28-2020 made by Elaine seconded by Linda. Minutes unanimously approved. Minutes from 10/29/20 and 12/10/20 were not approved yet.

There was a brief discussion about the community at large position. Margie has been unable to attend our meeting for some period of time. This discussion was tabled to a future meeting

REVIEW OF DOE PROJECTS

Discussion began with a review of the town counsel's position on the Historic Commission's proposals and the Conservation Committee proposals (see minutes of 12-10-20 for details of the proposals). Town Counsel's position was that neither Historical Commission's proposals were eligible for CPA funding. We were also informed that the Open Space category of CPA funding was for preservation, acquisition and creating only. This means that the support category is only applicable to housing. With this in mind, the committee proceeded to review two new project proposals.

The Conservation Committee proposed an application pertaining to the South Brook Conservation area. It included an ecological study, a usage plan and a rerouting of trails. The rerouting of trails was deemed an appropriate use of CPA funds and although the ecological study and usage plan would not on their own be appropriate use on their own, they are both necessary to trail rerouting.

Discussion: Linda suggested that this has to occur prior to the Mountain Bike Club project if it were to move forward. It was agreed that we would ask the Conservation Committee to discuss the Mountain Bike Club proposal in their application and vice versa. A motion to approve this proposal moving forward was made by Rita seconded by Elaine and voted unanimously in favor. Al with check with Penny Jacques if the due date of Feb 1 is viable since they received such late approval.

A second proposal was received from the Open Space Committee to update the Open Space Plan for the town. This proposal was widely regarded as ineligible. Rita has contacted many CPA experts who gave the same opinion. We could use administrative funds without a town meeting vote under the auspices of our obligation to assess the needs, resources and possibilities of the town. We allocate \$2500 to this line item each year. This is to pay dues, legal funds and ads. Last year we spent \$650. This year we will have to pay for legal fees and would only have about \$1100-1000 left over. These monies do not roll over into administrative fund category. We could entertain a proposal to use administrative funds at a later date.

A motion was made by John and seconded by Rita that the proposal was NOT eligible. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of use of our administrative funds was tabled for further research. Rita will speak with town counsel and get letters of support from town counsels for other towns that have used funds in this way.

Al suggested we invite the Open Space committee to a future meeting to discuss this proposal.

Full applications are due February 1. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 4th.

Motion to adjourn made by Elaine seconded by Rita, vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 12:38 PM

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Puleo