

Community Preservation Committee

February 4, 2021

Present: Allen Hanson, Rita Farrell, Elaine Puleo, Linda Avis Scott, Michael DeChiara,

Missing: Margie Tighe-Saporito

Guests: B.Z. Reilly, Penny Jacques

It was noted that John Walter has resigned from the Historical Commission and therefore is no longer representing that body on the Community Preservation Committee.

MINUTES

Michael moved to approve and Elaine seconded consideration of the minutes of Oct. 29, 2020.

The minutes were approved by unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Hanson – aye, Farrell – aye, Puleo- aye, Avis Scott – aye, DeChiara – aye.

Michael moved to approve and Linda seconded consideration of the minutes of Dec. 10, 2020.

The minutes were approved by majority via roll call vote as follows: Hanson – aye, Farrell – aye, Puleo- aye, Avis Scott – aye, DeChiara – abstain.

CPC PROPSAL REVIEW

Two proposals were considered by the committee for recommendation to Town Meeting. A third proposal from the Shutesbury Mountain Bike Club, although deemed eligible, was not submitted. Both proposals were reviewed for the following general criteria:

- a. Financially and administratively feasible
- b. Require immediate attention
- c. Serve a currently under-served population
- d. Serve multiple community needs and populations
- e. Help with the preservation of town owned assets
- f. Involve the acquisition of threatened resources
- g. Have other sources of funding and a payment schedule
- h. Promote the use of local contractors when possible
- i. Have a means of support for maintenance and upkeep
- j. Have community support
- k. Provide a positive impact to the community
- l. Have support from Shutesbury town board(s) or committee(s)

Community Gardens. A proposal to develop community gardens was submitted by the Shutesbury Recreation Committee for the amount of \$20,000. B.Z. Reilly presented on behalf of the applicant. The project would include \$3,000 in matching funds.

The project would be for the construction of a community garden to be created on land that is currently unused behind and to the south of Town Hall. It will consist of a fenced in area with plots available to town residents in exchange for a small annual maintenance fee (sliding scale) and some communal work to maintain common areas. Individual garden plots will measure 10'x

20' and be created and maintained by town residents. Initially 8 plots will be prepared within a fenced area of 54' x 70'; the fenced-in area could accommodate an additional four plots.

Upon review of the general criteria and following discussion, the proposal was considered favorably by the committee under the Recreation category of funding. Final decision to recommend to Town Meeting will be made following the public hearing.

Creation of Trail Plan. A proposal to develop an updated trail plan and undertake trail changes was submitted by the Shutesbury Conservation Commission for the amount of \$2,500. Penny Jacques presented on behalf of the applicant. The project does not include other sources of funding.

The project would take place on 97 acres of town-owned land near Lake Wyola. The Conservation Commission is in response to long-standing concerns about the degradation of trails from poor siting and incompatible uses. CPA funds would be used to hire a Trail Consultant to undertake an ecological assessment of the property. The Trail Consultant would provide an assessment of current trails, a plan to re-route trails that have been degraded or located in sensitive areas and a plan for new trails in upland areas to interconnect and expand the trail system. Re-routing trails that are currently in wet or fragile areas to more appropriate locations will preserve the ecological integrity of the site. At the same time, the expanded trail system will provide greater recreational opportunities.

Upon review of the general criteria and following discussion, the proposal was considered favorably by the committee under the Recreation category of finding. Final decision to recommend to Town Meeting will be made following the public hearing.

Regarding next steps, the public hearing for both proposals will be March 4, 2021. Linda will post the legal notice of the hearing by Feb. 11 following receipt copy for the ad by Allen and Rita.

REVIEW OF CPA FUNDS

The committee reviewed reports generated by the town accountant stating current fund balances. Following discussion, Rita will follow-up to get more detailed information regarding the Fund Balances for Expenditures.

ADJOURN

Michael moved and Elaine seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michael DeChiara