

Community Preservation Committee

Meeting of March 4, 2021. This was the CPA mandated public meeting for discussion of submitted proposals.

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

Missing: Margie Tighe-Saporito, representative from the Historical Commission (yet to be named)

Guests: B.Z. Reilly, Penny Jacques, Philip Parker and others via Zoom

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Allen Hanson. Note that this meeting was the annual public informational meeting required under the Community Preservation Act. This meeting is intended to allow public input into the working of the Community Preservation Committee in Shutesbury. As a result there were on the order of 15-20 people in attendance beyond the committee members.

Three proposals were considered by the committee for recommendation to Town Meeting:

1. Community Gardens. A proposal to develop community gardens was submitted by the Shutesbury Recreation Committee for the amount of \$23,000 (of which \$20,000 would come from CPA funds, with \$3,000 in matching funds). B.Z. Reilly presented on behalf of the applicant. A brief discussion was held on whether or not the location of the garden should be changed to town lot O-32 rather than behind the town hall. A motion was made by Michael DeChiara and seconded by Rita Farrell to recommend the original proposal to town meeting for funding. The motion passed unanimously.
2. South Brook and Town Beach Conservation Areas. This proposal (in the amount of \$2,500 in CPA funds) addresses degradation of trails in these two conservation areas by hiring an experienced trail consultant to undertake an ecological assessment of the property, including 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. A volunteer trail crew will reroute old trails and create new trails as necessary. A motion was made by Michael DeChiara and seconded by Elaine Puleo to recommend the proposal to town meeting for funding. The motion passed unanimously.
3. South Brook Conservation Area Mountain Bike Trails. This proposal (in the amount of \$5,560 of which \$2,500 would be CPA support) was submitted by the Shutesbury Mountain Bike Club (SMBC) for the construction of a separate dedicated single track mountain bike trail network in the Southbrook Conservation Area. While members of the CPC were supportive of the overall project, there were a number of open questions about integration of this project with the South Brook and Town Beach Conservation Area project and coordination of the respective efforts. Also of concern were questions regarding maintenance and oversight of the trail, ecological impact on the site, separation from walking trails, etc. It was suggested that the SMBC work closely with the Conservation Commission to develop a memo of understanding to address these and other related issues. A motion was made by Linda Scott and seconded by Rita Farrell

that the SMBC consider resubmitting their proposal at a future date when appropriate approvals and agreements are in place. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Elaine Puelo and seconded by Michael DeChiara to adjourn the meeting at 7:10. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Allen Hanson