

Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of September 30, 2014 Meeting

Members Present: J.J. Bell, Sandy Ronan, Bill Dugan, Stacy Randell, Scott Smith, John Feener,
Charlie Crowley, David Rhineland

Members Absent: Joe Orlando

Staff Present: Debbie Laurie, Senior Project Manager

The meeting was opened at 6:00PM by J.J. Bell, Co-Chair.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the August 19, 2014 meeting were approved; motion by Sandy Ronan, second by Stacy Randell.

Update on Rounds 1 - 4:

Deb Laurie gave a brief update on the projects still to be completed. The Gloucester High School project has still not been completed and since the initial applicant is no longer there, John Feener is working with Mark Cole of the DPW to salvage what was started, making walking paths and using the purchase order of \$2000 in the spring for plantings. The DPW has approved this. The Phyllis A. will complete both phases of its project at the same time. They are currently completing this work. Another applicant, the bike club, has been told by the DPW that it cannot proceed with its project of creating a pump track. The club needs to show how it could maintain the track before it could go ahead. The club really needs the city to be a co-applicant. At this point they do not have permission to even proceed with a survey. They have apparently been working with Nick Holland, a land planner, and Cape Ann Trails. Perhaps, if this work is productive, the bike club can come back and re-apply for CPA money.

Round 5:

The Budget and Finance Committee will meet on October 23rd to vote on these applications and then refer them to the City Council for a final vote on November 18th and December 16th.

Preservation Easement Status:

At this point there is a sense that one preservation easement agreement will not fit all of the CPA projects that need one. The CPC is still waiting for the agreement with the Maritime Heritage for their Mill Building. Also both the Blynman School and the Ocean Alliance need to sign their agreements. The creation of clear preservation easement agreements is still evolving. As we talked about this, Stacy Randell suggested that J.J.

and Sandy summarize a list of different policies that have evolved since the CPC has started its work. This would be helpful in the transition when J.J. and Sandy end their terms on the CPC.

City CPA Ordinance:

As Charlie Crowley suggested, the City has updated its CPA Ordinance so that it conforms with the “new” state ordinance that changed allowing recreational projects to receive CPA funds. This will be presented to the City Council on October 14th and will then go on to O & A.

Open Space Funding Options:

Charlie Crowley raised questions about how we can raise more money for large Open Space projects. This is of increased concern since now parks and playgrounds can go after Open Space/Recreation money. We had a discussion about when do we consider borrowing money through bonding and/or how do we put money aside for significant properties when they become available? This will probably be an ongoing debate, but an important one.

Public Relations:

Stacy Randell is staying on top of rounding up former recipients to write My View columns about their experiences with CPA. Hopefully these will start to show up in the GDT and the Beacon. There has been a positive response.

New Business:

There is a series of Housing Forum presentations happening related to using CPA funds to further community housing in our communities. Deb Laurie went to the first one on September 17th. She reported that there was a good turn- out. There will be 3 more: October 15th, November 19th, and December 17th.

Ms. Randell request that the Co-Chairs, upon the conclusion of their terms on the CPC, commit to writing some important lessons learned during the first six years of the CPC; and that the minutes show that the subject of CPC member succession be discussed at each meeting.

Motion to Adjourn:

Sandy Ronan made a motion to adjourn; Bill Dugan seconded it. The next meeting will be on October 21, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Ronan

