

Groton Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of Public Hearing of 29 September 2005

Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Time: 7:00 PM

Members Present: Jim Cantrill, Bruce H. Easom (Secretary), Dan Emerson, Rick Hughson, Carolyn Perkins (Vice Chair) and Mike Roberts (Chairman)

Members Absent: Robert DeGroot

The Chairman brought the public meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The first proposal up for discussion was the Sargisson Beach Docks proposal (Project 2005-6). David Whitcom of the Recreation Department gave a short presentation on the proposal to buy new docks for Sargisson Beach using the CPA's recreation funds. The 20-year-old original docks were scrapped last year as they were deemed to be unsafe for swimmers. David reported that the Recreation Department canceled this year's swim lessons at the beach due to having no docks. Bruce H. Easom asked if swim lessons generated a net revenue for the Recreation Department, after paying swimming instructors and other costs. David said the swimming lessons were a net generator of revenue.

Dan Emerson asked if swimming lessons generated any parking revenue. David could not say. Mike Roberts said the timeline submitted with the proposal looked fine and that the CPC would like to be kept informed of the progress of the project. Mike asked David if the Recreation Department would allow a sign acknowledging the use of CPA funds for the purchase of the docks. David said a sign would be okay.

The next proposal discussed was for the Squannacook Hall Window Replacement (Project 2005-10). David Whitcom gave a presentation summarizing the proposal to use the CPA's historic preservation funds to restore the windows in the historic Squannacook Hall. David reported that Squannacook Hall was built in 1887 and has been determined by the Groton Historic Commission to be an historic structure. The building is currently being used by the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and for chess and music activities. The windows are in poor condition and allow cold air to leak into the building during the winter and repairing the windows could reduce the building's heating bill.

Carolyn Perkins suggested that a restoration plan for the building would be helpful. A plan would help insure that the new windows would not have to come out later while making other repairs to the building. Bruce H. Easom noted that the building has had

many uses and configurations in its history and a restoration plan would describe what state the build would be restored to. Dan Emerson expressed concern about the cost of the project and whether it was an appropriate use of CPA funds. Dan suggested repairing the windows as part of a 5-year plan would be helpful.

Mike Roberts suggested presenting an overall presentation plan for the building. The next proposal discussed was the Prescott School flag pole (Project 2005-8) A presentation was made on the history of the flagpole by Heather Bee. Heather provided some information from Goldsmith, Prest and Ringwall suggesting that restoration of the pole may require more money than was being requested in the proposal. Ed Kopec, a past commander of the American Legion Post in town, said he had graduated from Groton High School, in 1941, in a class of 24 people. Ed said his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren went to the school. Ed reported that at the last American Legion meeting they voted unanimously to recommend the funding of his proposal.

The next proposal discussed was the proposal from the Groton Country Club for restoration of the fairways (Project 2005-11). Valerie Spencer and Brad Durrin gave a presentation on the current state of the fairways. Bruce H. Easom asked if the Groton Country Club would consider paying any CPA funds back from increased revenue expected from repairing the fairways. Mike Roberts suggested a plan for the Country Club improvements be included as part of the proposal. Carolyn Perkins asked why the Country Club pays the town \$15,000 per year rather than reinvesting the money in the Country Club.

Mike Roberts Moved to close the public meeting. Jim Cantrill seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

The Community Preservation Committee reconvened at 9:10 PM for the purpose of discussing the proposals and deciding on which proposals to be recommended to Town Meeting.

Bruce H. Easom moved that, for purposes of recommending proposals to town meeting, the Committee use only the amount of money requested in the proposals and that the total value of recommended proposals be less than or equal to \$380,000. Dan Emerson seconded the motion.

Rick Hughson moved to amend the main motion to a total amount of \$400,000 with an explicit understanding that the historical documents proposal would be recommended in the amount of \$18,000. Dan Emerson seconded the motion. The motion to amend failed when the Committee voted two in favor, three against and one abstention.

The main motion failed when the Committee voted 2 in favor, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

Mike Roberts to commend the Conservation Fund proposal at \$185,000 and the affordable housing proposal at \$81,000. Carolyn Perkins seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote with Roberts, Emerson and Perkins voting in favor; Eason and Hughson voting against; and Cantrill abstaining. Mike Roberts moved to recommend the following projects and amounts to Town Meeting

- 2005-2 Conservation Fund for \$185,000
- 2005-3 Historic Document Preservation for \$18,000
- 2005-4 Rocky Hill Community Housing for \$81,000
- 2005-6 Sargisson Dock Replacement for \$23,190
- 2005-7 Community Preservation Study for \$22,500
- 2005-9 Fitch's Bridge for \$60,000

Carolyn Perkins seconded the motion. The motion failed when Roberts, Perkins and Emerson voted in favor and Eason, Hughson and Cantrill voted against.

Mike Roberts moved to accept the following slate of proposals and their costs with each recommended proposal to be written as a separate warrant article.

- 2005-2 Conservation Fund for \$185,000
- 2005-3 Historic Document Preservation for \$18,000
- 2005-4 Rocky Hill Community Housing for \$81,000
- 2005-6 Sargisson Beach Dock Replacement for \$23,190
- 2005-7 Community Preservation Study for \$22,500
- 2005-9 Fitch's Bridge for \$60,000

Carolyn Perkins seconded the motion. Rick Hughson moved to amend the main motion such that the individual Committee member's votes would appear in each of the individual articles. Mike Roberts seconded the motion to amend. The motion to amend carried with 5 in favor and 1 opposed. The main motion carried with 4 in favor and 2 opposed.

Mike Roberts moved to tally the votes for the six recommended projects. Carolyn Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The results of the tally are as follows. "Y" means voted in favor, "N" means voted against and "A" means abstained.

| | | BE | RH | CP | DE | MR | JC |
|-----------------------|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Conservation Fund | 2005-2 | N | N | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Historic Documents | 2005-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Rocky Hill Housing | 2005-4 | N | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Sargisson Beach Docks | 2005-6 | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| CWPP Study | 2005-7 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Fitch's Bridge | 2005-9 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | A |

Bruce H. Easom suggested that it would be difficult to explain to Town Meeting why the Conservation Fund proposal (2005-2) was recommended even though three members voted in favor and three voted against it.

Dan Emerson voted to remove the tallies from the Warrant Articles. Bruce H. Easom seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 1 opposed.

Jim Cantrill moved the to have the individual CPA members' votes included in the individual warrant articles. Bruce H. Easom seconded the motion. The motion did not carry as 2 voted in favor and 4 voted against.

Mike Roberts moved to have the Secretary to draft two letters to people submitting proposals. One letter informing the proposers that the CPC will be recommending their proposal to Town Meeting and one letter informing the proposers that the CPC would not be recommending their proposal to town meeting. Dan Emerson seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Bruce H. Easom moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Roberts seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote and the hearing adjourned at 11:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce H. Easom

18 October 2005

Date

Secretary
Groton Community Preservation Committee

These minutes were approved as drafted by unanimous vote on 17 October 2005.