

# Groton Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of Public Meeting of August 3, 2009

**Location:** Legion Hall

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Members Present:** Bruce Easom (Chairman), Dan Emerson,  
Rick Hughson (Treasurer), Robert DeGroot (Vice-Chair)

**Members Absent:** Jonathan Strauss, Mike Roberts, Carolyn Perkins (Secretary)

## Public Meeting

### 1. Action Items

Mr. Easom:

- Close out letter for Sawtell

All Members

- Compile suggestions regarding deed restrictions and forward to Mr. Easom

Mr. Easom calls the meeting to order at 8:10

### 2. Active Project Updates

#### 2010-01 Field of Dreams

Natural Heritage has found turtle nests at the site. Although this is not a formal finding, this has triggered meetings with the Conservation Commission. There is a potential to close the road, so options are being looked into. A possibility may be to change the field layout.

#### 2010-02 Conservation Fund

Mr. Easom began by mentioning that he is uncertain if the \$100,000 has been transferred yet.

The Conservation Commission has submitted three applications to the DCS, which will provide a

60% reimbursement. The first application is for MATTBOB. The appraisal has come in at \$400,000 and the Conservation Commission has offered \$450,000. The second application is the Lowell Rd. property owned by Gloria Fuccillo which is the future site of GELD. The appraisal has come in at \$250,000; however the asking price is \$500,000. Negotiations have been made and Conservation has agreed to fund \$150,000 with GELD responsible for the remainder. This purchase will not be contingent upon DCS reimbursement.

#### **2010-04 Groton Grange**

A letter received from Mr. Haddad concerning deed restrictions is reviewed by the Committee. Mr. Easom stated that he would like to see if the Conservation Commission would be interested in a 30 year restriction. In Mr. Hughson's opinion, 30 years is not long enough and believes since town money is involved he would like to see a Conservation Restriction in perpetuity. Conversation ensued as to whether a percent interest or dollar value interest would be best and what appropriate time frames/limitations should be in place. It was agreed that this issue warrants further discussion as this is ground breaking and we may be seeing more of this in the future. It is suggested that each member E-mail suggestions to Mr. Easom, who will compile this information and review with Mr. Haddad.

#### **2010-06 Footstone Reinstallation**

Project is scheduled to begin somewhere between late August to the beginning of September. Mr. Easom stated the kick-off letter for this project has been issued.

#### **2010-08 Unkety Brook Phase I**

No updates. A letter to proceed has been issued to Tom Orcutt

#### **2006-02 Sawtell School**

Project has been completed. The final invoice is signed by the Committee.. Mr. Hughson stated this project is an example on the difficulty of monitoring money as some components of project were above estimate and some were below. Mr.Easom believes this is where the agreement letter will prove useful, and if there is concern we may need to make sure the warrant is more explicit. Mr. Easom will draft close out letter.

#### **2006-11 Lost Lake Basketball Court**

Basketball court has been paved.

#### **2006-09 Wharton Bridges**

Mr. Easom will send close out letter.

## **2007-12 Affordable Housing Implementations**

Discussion revolved around whether project should be closed out. It is stated that the top locations have been provided and that is what the application was for. Mr. Hughson suggested to re-read the application and confirm the project is ready to close out.

## **2007-13 Nashua Rd.**

Mr. Emerson is still waiting to hear back from MESA. Mr. Easom mentioned that Natural Heritage and MESA have a certain time in which to reply. He would like a copy of the letter.

## **3. Housing Coordinator Position**

Mr. Hughson began by questioning the amount of \$20,000 and would like to know if that includes expenses. He would also like to know who is signing the time sheet as this is CPA money. Mr. Degroot believes this is similar to the CPA administrative Assistant and questions whether it should be regarded in the same manner. It is decided to bring these questions to the table at the next meeting with Mr. Haddad.

Mr. DeGroot responds after reading the application, that the job description is very broad and could potentially lead to a 40hr. position. He believes the CPC should have control over the purse strings and a check and balance system is necessary as well as guidelines. Mr. Hughson reminds that only 5% can be spent for administrative funding.

## **4. Closing**

Mr. Hughson brings up the recent E-mails to the Committee regarding the Governor's reluctance in raising taxes for CPC and requests feedback. Mr. Hughson reviews some of the changes and the pros and cons of these changes. Mr. Easom asks the Committee if they would like to take a position on Senate Bill 90. Mr. Hughson was not in favor, Mr. Easom and Mr. DeGroot were neutral and Mr. Emerson was in favor.

*Ms. Perkins moved to accept the minutes of July 7, 2009 as written. Mr. Emerson seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.*

*Mr. Hughson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeGroot seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Kathy Miller

Minutes approved 9/1/2009