

Groton Community Preservation Committee Minutes of Public Meeting of February 2, 2010

Final

Location: Legion Hall
Time: 7:30 PM
Members Present: Bruce Easom, Carolyn Perkins (Chair), Mike Roberts, Jon Strauss (Vice-Chair)
Rick Hughson (Treasurer), Dan Emerson
Members Absent: Robert DeGroot (Secretary)
Guests: None

Public Meeting

1. Action Items

Ms. Miller:
• Invite David Manugian to next meeting
Ms. Perkins:
• Working with Mr. Haddad on Warrant
Mr. Strauss:
• Signage

Ms. Perkins calls the meeting to order at 7:30

The Agenda is reviewed by the Committee.

2. Master Plan

Ms. Perkins mentioned the Master Plan, and let the Committee know that there is a need for volunteers. A sign up sheet was distributed which outlined the areas that are available. Ms. Perkins stated why it is important for people to be involved, and then reviewed the process and the time commitment.

3. Budget Review

Mr. Hughson distributed a budget for review by the Committee. Mr. Hughson began by stating that he and Ms. Jenkins, Town Accountant spent many hours collaborating and believe this document to be accurate. A trace was done on Surrenden Farm to resolve any remaining issues. He also stated that a \$130,000 discrepancy had been found. It was discovered that early on money that was voted in for Surrenden Farm but was not spent until the following year was counted twice. Also, an additional \$60,000 was found that is believed to be the result of long term bond issues (premium), interest and double processed amounts. All in all there are approximately \$190,000 additional funds that have been discovered by this review. Ms. Jenkins informed the Committee that She and Mr. Hughson will meet more frequently for budget reviews.

Minutes approved 2/22/10

The question is asked to Ms. Jenkins on whether or not money received has to be distributed into correct bins. Ms. Jenkins replied no and suggested that if money is not going to be spent in April to save it until Fall Town Meeting, when we know what is received. It is explained that the vote is only for spending money before it is received. It does not make sense to take a vote before money is received as we are never sure what we will receive. Projected balance and realistic projections are discussed. A reminder is made of certain factors that affect the amount of money received by each community. Recording fees at the Registry of Deeds as well as the number of new Towns entering into the CPA program.

Ms. Perkins stated that the uncertainty is why the plan changed to base applications on what we have instead of in the fall using anticipated funds. Suggestions on how to pursue out of cycle applications are reviewed.

4. Plaques

Mr. Strauss distributed examples of signage. Suggestions to font are made as well as dots being added around the edge. It is also advised to take the yellow out of the sign. The price is \$177.00 and Jon is going to go ahead and order the first sample and we can use this sample to base our decision for additional signage on the outcome.

5. Warrant

Mr. Hughson is working on financials for the warrant. Ms. Perkins is meeting with Mr. Haddad, Town Manager to prepare place holders.

6. Town Report

Ms. Perkins will be working on the annual Town Report and asked the members for some input as to accomplishments of the CPA in the past year. A few notables were: Community Preservation Plan was updated, Footstone Reinstallation project was completed, Lost Lake Basketball court completed, note on Surrenden Farm was paid, Conservation Commission received \$100,000, Historic Documents were preserved, Engineering for Unkety Brook Phase I completed, Sawtell School completed, Conservation Commission used CPA funds to purchase the Fuccillo property and Carrie Fischer was hired as the new Housing Coordinator.

7. Housing Trust

Kopelman and Paige's presentation from last week was reviewed. The main topic was how CPA money can go to a Housing Trust and the number of ways this money can be used. The first phase is to put together a Housing Trust.

8. Active Project Updates

2010-03 Communitywide Archaeological Survey

Deadline for phase I coming in on schedule

2010-06 Footstone Reinstallation

Waiting for report.

2007-12 Affordable Housing Implementation

Tour of the Prescott building is scheduled for this Saturday at 10:00 AM.

2010-04 Grange

In the process of writing additional RFP's using the roof RFP as an example

2006-11 Basketball Court

Still waiting on lights.

9. New Business

Mr. Strauss communicated his concerns with the new Unkety Brook proposal. It is his belief that without a purchase and sale agreement or agreed upon price with the Seller, this application is premature. Suggestions such as requesting an exact amount in the final application and making sure the warrant article is precise are discussed. It was also suggested to incorporate a project termination clause if guidelines are not met.

Mr. Easom moved to authorize Kathy Miller to expend not more than \$100 to advertise in the Groton Herald and Groton Landmark as per chapter 44B for public meetings of Mass General Law. Mr. Emerson seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

10. Closing

Mr. Strauss moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Roberts seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Miller