

Groton Community Preservation Committee
Minutes of Public Meeting of February 22, 2010

FINAL

Location: Town Hall

Time: 7:30 PM

Members Present: Bruce Easom, Carolyn Perkins (Chair), Mike Roberts, Jon Strauss (Vice-Chair)
Dan Emerson, Robert DeGroot (Secretary)

Members Absent: Rick Hughson (Treasurer),

Guests: None

Public Meeting

1. Action Items

Ms. Miller:

- Make copies of score sheet for next meeting
- Give warrant article with corrections to Mr. Haddad for updating.
- Bring sign application to next meeting.

Ms. Perkins:

- Invite David Manugian to next meeting

Ms. Perkins calls the meeting to order at 7:32

The Agenda is reviewed by the Committee.

2. Plaque Update

Jon Strauss presented the first completed signage to the Committee. It was met with approval by the entire Committee and Mr. Strauss was thanked for his efforts. It was decided to discuss the purchase of additional signage at the next meeting along with corresponding projects.

3. Warrant Article

The Warrant article drafted by Mark Haddad, Town Manager was reviewed by the Committee. It was decided to rearrange the warrant and have the proposals appear on the warrant in order of their application numbers. The correct budget sums were added and a few typo corrections made. Ms. Miller will make sure Mr. Haddad receives the amended draft Warrant Article so it can be updated.

Mr. Easom distributed documentation regarding the Trust Fund and revenues coming into the Registry of Deeds. The information used bar graphs which depicted 2009 as being inconsistent to previous years and how the trend depicts 2010 getting back on track. Mr. Easom stated that the DOR is in the process of investigating the State match and the forecast may be similar to the Trust Fund's predictions.

Discussion followed as Mr. Easom believes the forecast is based on the best information available and Town Meeting should have this information made available. Ms. Perkins replied that a vote had been made by the Committee which was not forecasting for future money but using what is available at the time of vote. The pros and cons of both the conservative/non-conservative approach are reviewed. Mr. Strauss added that they both hold value but in the end was in favor of what can be defended, which is spending what we have. The point was also raised that this is not an issue this year as we have enough money to satisfy the current applications.

Mr. Strauss moved to fund Article 10 which allocates the Community Preservation Funds to the following sub accounts: \$26,000 (CPC Operating Expenses), \$52,000 (Open Space Reserve), \$52,000 (Historic Resource Reserve), \$52,000 (Community Housing Reserve), \$338,000 (Unallocated Reserve). Mr. Emerson seconded. The motion passed by majority vote with Ms. Perkins, Mr. Emerson, Mr. Strauss, Mr. Roberts and Mr. DeGroot in favor and Mr. Easom opposed.

4. Coalition Dues

Ms. Perkins informed the Committee that an e-mail was received concerning Coalition dues. Ms. Perkins recommended reviewing the budget to make sure there is enough money in salaries before taking a vote, as she wanted to make sure the CPA Assistant and Housing Coordinator position were all set.

5. Housing Trust

Ms. Perkins gave a brief review of Kopelman and Paige's presentation regarding Housing Trusts. 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 and establishing rules. Mr. Easom responded that he would be interested in obtaining a schedule/time frame for the Trust. Ms. Perkins will see if she can get some information from Mr. Haddad.

6. Minutes

Mr. Easom moved to accept the minutes of February 2, 2010 as amended. Mr. Emerson seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

7. Invoices

Verizon February invoice and signage invoice are signed. It was decided not to sign the Nitsch Engineering invoice until Carolyn checks with Tom Orcutt to verify goods/services.

8. Active Project Updates

2010-03 Communitywide Archaeological Survey

Phase I is closing this month and checklist items will be double checked.

2010-06 Footstone Reinstallation

Still awaiting final report.

2007-12 Affordable Housing Implementation

Prescott open house was reviewed. The school still has a lease until 2012, and neighbors brought up their concerns.

2010-04 Grange

Mr. Easom has sent Sally Smith an e-mail requesting updates. RFP's are going out in the next couple of weeks and the Grange is ahead of schedule.

2006-11 Basketball Court

Still waiting for lights. It's decided to hold off on close out letter until project is complete.

2005-09 Fitch's Bridge

Invite David Manugian to next meeting for updates. Ms. Perkins's will take as an action item.

2010-08 Unkety Brook Phase I

Still waiting for final appraisal.

2007-13 GHA-Nashua Rd.

Mr. Emerson reported that Ellen Todd is working on the second proposal. There is a question regarding reimbursement of the ANRAD fee.

9. New Business

Mr. Roberts informed the Committee that he believes a sign application needs to be filled out and permission granted by the Sign Committee before we go any further concerning signage. Ms. Miller will bring a sign application to the next meeting.

10. Closing

Ms. Perkins asked the Committee if they would like to keep the next CPA meeting which is the Public Hearing for this purpose only, or do they want to have an agenda. The consensus was to keep an agenda but to a minimal.

Mr. Easom moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Roberts seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Miller

Minutes approved 3/15/2010