

Groton Community Preservation Committee Minutes of Public Meeting of March 2, 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: Marshall Giguere, Joachin Preiss, Anna Eliot, Stuart Schulman, Al Collins, Mike Roberts,
Thomas Orcutt

Public Meeting

1. Action Items

Ms. Miller:

- Scan 2007-13 Proposal for next meeting
- Bring Coalition invoice to next meeting

Ms. Perkins:

- Request administrative fund balance from Ms. Jenkins

Mr. Easom

- Research embossing stamp for Historic Documents

Mr. Strauss

- Investigate Book Plate for Historic Documents

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

The Agenda is reviewed by the Committee.

2. Public Hearing for FY2011 Project Applications

2011 -01 Conservation Fund

Marshall Giguere gave a brief explanation on the Conservation Commissions request for \$30,000. It was explained that due to the current economic times, a decision had been made to reduce the amount that was previously requested. This amount represents half the amount that the Conservation Commission spent to purchase the Gloria Fuccillo property. This property was purchased jointly with Geld. The original amount spent was \$150,000 with \$90,000 of this money being returned from a land Grant.

CPA Response:

Mr. Strauss asked if the Conservation Commission had any other means of revenue. Mr. Giguere replied that they did not and that is why prior to the CPA they would go to Town Meeting for funds. Mr. Easom added that funds are

received from farm leases but it is very little. Ms. Perkins brought up the importance of having funds readily available and sited Surrenden Farms and the Fuccillo purchases as prime examples.

Public Response:

Stuart Schulman (Selectman) expressed his approval of this application. Anna Eliot (Selectman) shared her approval as well and believes this to be a modest request and stressed this is their only source of revenue. Mr. Preiss (Trails Committee) stated his support and the input the Conservation Commission has in connecting trails. These trails are very important and are used by many.

2011 -02 Historic Document Preservation

Mr. Bouchard (Town Clerk) presented a history of the Document Preservation application. He stated this project, which is phase 4 began in 2005. Originally there were 72 volumes scoped with a cost of \$81,215. Mr. Bouchard stated that phase 4 has increased the number of volumes that were originally scoped. Due to the increase in Towns participating in CPA, prices on document preservations have increased. It is Mr. Bouchard's opinion that these prices will continue to rise and therefore believes that is in our best interest to get as many volumes done as possible. In an effort to be more cost effective the decision was made to drop microfilming after the preservation process. Originally this was done both before and after.

CPA Response:

Mr. Roberts was glad to close out the original 2005 proposal, so we can look at other documents that need to be restored. Mr. Easom agreed with Mr. Roberts and stated that he would like to eventually concentrate on "minutes". With this entire electronic savings, he would like to see a hard copy with a centralized location saved so that future generations can have access to them. Mr. Emerson was concerned with the rising costs of preservation and believes we should get as many done as possible and reviews what is remaining before pricing is outrageous. Ms. Perkins stated she would like to see a management plan, and would like to see in writing how these volumes are tracked. Mr. Bouchard responded that there is currently a targeted list and he relies on the Vendor and their process. Mr. Roberts suggested a schedule be put together with milestones and dates.

Public Response:

Mr. Schulman asked for an estimated of what is left to be preserved. Mr. Bouchard replied that there is approximately 40% left to be done. Al Collins (Historical Commission) expressed his agreement with Mr. Easom on creating a format to have minutes preserved.

2011 -03 Unkety Brook Phase II

Mr. Orcutt (Water Dept.) began by stating this is the 3rd year the Water Department has put forth an application. The amount of this application has increased over the years due to management plans, legal fees and such. Since the 1980's the Water Commission has been seeking other sources of water. In 1995 an extensive study was performed which narrowed down 4 potential water sites with Unkety Brook being the most feasible. The Commission spent \$40,000 on this study. This site was considered number one based on location & being in a different watershed basin and being secluded. There is also the fact that this is on the North side of Town and would offer additional water protection and be available if the High School ever needs it due to the water issues they have been experiencing. Mr. Orcutt ends with importance of securing this 400ft. radius as no pumping can ever be done without it. He also stressed that this is not for existing customers but for future customers.

CPA Response:

Mr. Strauss added that he is in favor, but would like to know the Owner's opinion and would like to see a timeline in the application. Mr. DeGroot was also in favor and believes the benefit offsets the risk and believes there is a high probability for success. Ms. Perkins responded that the presentation was very good and additional was brought forth

that hadn't been previously. In particular was the fire protection for N. Groton. Mr. Emerson added that he was in full support, and Mr. Easom stated that he was conflicted although the application certainly falls within the CPA guidelines.

Public Response:

Mr. Collins stated his support as it contributes to the sustainability of Groton. He also added that he had lived in a contaminated area of Groton and was thankful for Town Water. Protecting resources is important. Mr. Strauss added that a similar situation occurred in West Groton with bad water and that Residents were very grateful when the Blood Farm Well was developed.

2011 -04 Communitywide Survey – Agricultural Heritage

Mr. Roberts presented a brief overview of the project. He explained that the goal is to have in writing a historic context, of agriculture in Groton. Agricultural activities along with the location of these sites will be listed. These documents will become a gauge on which farms/farm landscapes can be evaluated for importance. Various ways this information will be used such as agricultural maps, education projects with the school, and the creation of management plans for threatened crops were mentioned. Mr. Roberts has received endorsements from the Grange, Planning Board and Williams Barn Committee. RFP's will be sent out to approximately 5 Vendors, and a selection will be made after all proposals have been reviewed. The amount that is being requested for this project is \$35,000. \$30,000 will be for the Contractor and \$5,000 will be for miscellaneous expenses and contingencies.

CPA Response:

Mr. Strauss questioned the criticalness of this project, as this project along with the Historical Documents application will reduce the money in the Historic Funds almost in half. Mr. Roberts responded that this project is critical now. The Agricultural and farming community are looking for support. Agriculture is a viable business and help is needed for preservation. Mr. DeGroot replied that that this project does not have a tangible deliverable but is more of an ideal. This ideal is just as important and critical for the Town going forward. Mr. Emerson expressed his support and asked if other means of funding had been sought. Mr. Collins explained that this sort of project is not typically supported by the Massachusetts Historical Commission as they are more apt to support a "structure" or "site".

Public Response:

Mr. Schulman asked what the impact would be if this project was not approved. With projects such as Historic records, the impact is obvious. Mr. Roberts replied that the same thing happens to Farms as documents, they fall to the wayside. Ms. Perkins asked if Mr. Roberts could expand. Mr. Roberts used as an example, the pursuit of a specific agricultural grant. In order to write a successful grant, it would be necessary to know if that product had ever been grown successfully in Groton and if so, was the correct soil present in Groton for growing it. Surrenden Farms was used as another example. If ever this were to be re-created this document would supply the necessary information. Mr. Collins added that this information would be used as a baseline. In his opinion Groton is made up of many threads that all add up to the fiber which is Groton.

3. Sign location & Update

Mr. Easom moved to authorize Jon Strauss to fill out a sign application and sign on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee for a sign at the Sawtell School. Mr. Emerson seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

A discussion ensued as to the other locations that would require signs. It was determined that the following sites should have signage: Surrenden Farm, Basket Ball Court, Field of Dreams, Grange Sawtell School and the Fuccillo Property.

It was also decided that as there is money available in the Administrative Funds that may not be available in the future, additional signage should be purchased this year. It was also decided that book plates be investigated for the Historic Documents. Ms. Perkins suggested we request from Valerie Jenkins, Town Accountant an exact balance in the administrative fund before taking additional votes.

4. Coalition Dues

The decision was made to pay the coalition dues this year as we have the funds available.

Mr. Roberts moved to pay the Coalition dues. Mr. Easom seconded. The motion passed by majority vote with only Mr. Strauss abstaining.

Ms. Miller will bring a copy of the e-mail and invoice to the next meeting. Discussion was had in regards to the many benefits that the Coalition provides.

5. Invoices

Nitsche invoice for the Unkety Brook Phase I project is signed by the Committee.

6. GHA/Nashua Rd. – Mesa fees

Mr. Emerson began by stating that the original thought was that the MESA would be part of the engineering process. Ms. Perkins responded that she believes that Ms. Jenkins wanted to be sure that we would not go over the sum of \$25,000. Mr. Emerson believes it will be in the best interest to get at least two bids. The two bids will go out to Ducharme Dillis and Meisner Brem.

Mr. Easom added that the Conservation Commission usually goes out and gets the ANRAD/MESA first. In his opinion Meisner/Brem performed a lot division and sub work without even knowing the condition of the land. This is part of all the confusion. It is suggested to seek Barbara Ganem on this situation as she would be able to provide some accurate clarification. It was also stated that Meisner/Brem want payment before hand and the consensus of the CPC was that payment will be made after the deliverables are received.

10. Closing

Mr. Easom moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Roberts seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Miller

Minutes approved 4/6/2010