

Groton Community Preservation Committee Minutes of Public Meeting of April 6, 2010

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, Robert DeGroot (Secretary)

Members Absent: Mike Roberts

Public Meeting

1. Action Items

Ms. Miller:

- Scan Dick Heaton RFP, and e-mail to Committee

Ms. Perkins:

- Invite Valerie Jenkins to May 4th meeting

Mr. Easom:

- Close out letter for the Footstone project.

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

The Agenda is reviewed.

2. Fitch's Bridge

Ms. Perkins read aloud an e-mail received from David Manugian, which states a brief history of the project as well as a list of options due to the many road blocks. In Mr. Manugian's opinion, he would like to see one more RFP go out before closing out the project. Ms. Perkins believes it would be in the best interest to close the project out, and if future opportunities become available, another application can be put forth. Discussion continued as to the best option. A potential earmark coming through and keeping the money as leverages is discussed. It was decided to hold off further discussion until the Committee could meet with Mr. Manugian.

3. Invoices

Verizon invoice was signed.

It was decided to put the Dick Heaton invoice in the CPC mailbox and have members sign once they review the RFP put together by Mr. Heaton. Ms. Miller will scan the RFP and e-mail a copy to the CPC members.

Ms. Perkins read a letter that was received by Mr. Heaton closing out this project. In the letter he stated that Tarbell School didn't pan out and he recommended waiting a few years for the real estate market to turn around before putting forth an RFP for the Prescott school.

It was also decided to hold off signing the U-Mass Amherst invoice until Mr. Roberts was available to discuss deliverables for this project.

4. Minutes

Mr. Easom moved to accept the minutes of March 2, 2010 as drafted. Mr. Emerson seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Easom moved to accept the minutes of March 15, 2010 as amended. Mr. Strauss seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. Budget Review – Jon Strauss

Mr. Strauss began conversation by stating his opinion that there should be a range of values or balance that the Conservation Commission is comfortable with. It is his opinion that the Commission submits an application every year and this money could be used for other endeavors. Having enough funds for the pay down of Surrenden Farms and the ability to submit an out of sequence application in the event of an emergency were used as key points. Mr. Strauss requested feedback from the other members.

Mr. Easom responded that Town Meeting has the right to speak and that the Conservation Commission always seeks grant money. Ms. Perkins suggested a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission to discuss limits. We have to cover Surrenden Farms and at times we are unsure of the match and there is always the consequence of running out of money. Mr. Hughson's suggestion is that the CPC should set a balance for itself, that they would never go under and keep unallocated reserve for emergency.

Discussion continued with how much money is enough. The bottom line discussed was that it is the CPC's responsibility to pass on all viable projects to Town Meeting, and it is up to Town Meeting to decide how much is enough. Ms. Perkins reminded the Committee that when the CPA was first established it was established that this is where the majority of the Conservation money would come from. Ms. Perkins also mentioned that the Conservation Commission always seeks grant money and there are numerous notable results.

6. Meeting Schedule

Ms. Perkins asked the Committee if they would consider meeting only once a month through the summer. Everyone agreed and it was decided that the CPC would meet the first Tuesday of every month, with the next scheduled meeting being May 4, 2010 @ 7:30 PM. Ms. Perkins will invite Valerie Jenkins, Town Accountant to this meeting.

7. Housing Coordinator

Mr. Hughson brought up the budget for the administrative fund. He wanted to mention that increases have been cut, and \$15,000 has been allocated for the Housing Coordinator position and this amount should not be exceeded.

8. Fitch's Bridge Cont'd – David Manugian

Mr. Manugian arrived and began by reciting the history of the project, and where the project currently stands. The memo he sent was reviewed and per the memo, Mr. Manugian states there are three options remaining. Option 1: Seek full federal funding and Mass Highway takes care of everything and will hold bridge to their high standards as a vehicle bridge. Option 2: Don't pursue higher standards and opt for a safe pedestrian bridge. Option 3: Construct small steel bridge for pedestrian only use and do away with the old bridge.

In Mr. Manugian's opinion it is reasonable to close out this project. He does not believe there is enough money left to produce what is needed. Mr. Easom stated that the earmark for this project would require a 20% match and asked if it was a possibility to receive \$80,000 on our \$20,000, and would this be enough to get a full design. Mr. Manugian believes this would be enough money. Mr. Easom then stated that if we had a full design there would be more opportunities to receive grants and we would be placed at the top of the list.

It was decided to wait an additional 6 months before closing out this project. In the meantime Mr. Manugian will obtain information regarding earmarks.

2010-01 Field of Dreams

Bidding has begun on the lights.

2010-03 Communitywide Archaeological Survey

A public presentation was conducted at the Town Hall.

2010-06 Footstone Reinstallation

Ms. Perkins read the final report to the Committee. Mr. Easom volunteers to prepare a close-out letter for Ms. Jenkins, Town Accountant.

2010-08 Unkety Brook Phase I

Mr. Orcutt is still waiting for the appraisal

2007-13 GHA-Nashua Rd.

Town Accountant, Valerie Jenkins will be invited to the next CPC meeting for discussion

2007-12 Affordable Housing Implementation

Ms. Miller will get a copy of the RFP from Mr. Haddad and e-mail to the CPC.

8. Closing

Mr. Easom moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Strauss seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Miller