

Groton Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of Public Meeting of May 3, 2011

Location: Town Hall

Time: 7:00 PM

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

Guests: Peter Cunningham

Ms. Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

1. Community Preservation Plan - Review

Mr. Strauss began by expressing his concerns that we are a misunderstood committee. He explained that we differ from most Committees because of the amount of money that we are in charge of. Mr. Strauss made a suggestion that it may be beneficial to have someone from the CPC get up at Town Meeting and give a detailed presentation each year to better educate the public. A larger visual of the budget should be created so the public can review and understand the implication voting on each project has to the budget. Another suggestion was that the actual applicant should present their application at Town Meeting.

Ms. Perkins suggested we begin with the Community Preservation Plan. After spending some time reviewing the plan, she has determined that it is too bulky and redundant in some areas. She would like to see it cleaned up and reduced so that applicants will find it easier to understand and comply with. Ms. Perkins shared The Town of Sudbury's Community Preservation Plan, and used this as an example of sometimes less being more. The Plan was much smaller yet contained all the necessary information.

The scoring sheet was discussed and the majority of the Committee was in agreement that it should be removed from the CPP or completely revamped. Ms. Perkins mentioned a Community Preservation Plan that she recently reviewed which had a comment section, so the Community Preservation Committee could offer suggestions in writing.

The role of the Community Preservation Committee in recommending projects to Town Meeting was briefly touched upon. It was decided that more outreach needs to be performed to get the public to understand the roles and responsibilities of the Community Preservation Committee, and perhaps put something in place so we can receive public feedback. Different mechanisms were discussed such as providing flyers at Town Meeting, Presenting at the Selectmen's meeting, Around Town with Jane Bouvier and the Town Website.

It was agreed by the Committee that a sub-committee should be created to modify the Community Preservation Plan. The new plan will be reduced, simplified and geared towards the goals of Groton's new Master Plan.

Mr. Roberts' moved that we establish a subcommittee to modify the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Emerson seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

After the vote, Mr. Hewitt added that we need to define our role and incorporate that into the Community Preservation Plan. Mr. Roberts read a portion from the Community Preservation Act stating that it is the Committees' job to make recommendations. It was also mentioned that although not perfect the score sheet is helpful in determining the merit of each application.

Mr. Roberts, Ms. Perkins and Mr. DeGroot volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

2. Project Updates

2006-11 Lost Lake Basketball Court – Waiting on Groton Electric to install lights. Anticipate project being ready to close by June 30, 2011

2007-13 GHA-Nashua Rd. – Discrepancies are being ironed out.

2010-01 Field of Dreams- Mr. Strauss was at the field on Saturday. Soil and infield mix has been put down. The irrigation system is in place and they hope to have the fields playable by July.

2010-03 Communitywide Archaeological Survey – Mass Historical Society has approved the retraction. A letter of completion has been received. The final report was passed around for review by the Committee and will be placed on the web. The final invoice was signed.

2010-04 Groton Grange – No update, still trying to coordinate a work date with Nashoba Technical School.

2010-05 Historic Document Preservation – Project is completed, still waiting on a close-out letter.

2011-03 Unkety Brook Phase II – Completion letter needs to be drafted.

2011-04 Communitywide Survey – Agriculture – Monthly progress meeting is coming up and Mr. Roberts will report the results back at the next scheduled meeting.

2011-05 Millstone Project - No updates

3. Minutes

Mr. Emerson moved to accept the minutes of April 5, 2011 as drafted. Mr. Roberts seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Mr. Roberts moved to accept the minutes of April 19, 2011 as amended. Mr. Hewitt seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

4. Invoices/Documents

Invoice #0004480-IN	Lenox Nursery & Garden Ctr., Inc.	\$3,614.60	Field of Dreams
Invoice	Lenox Nursery & Garden Ctr., Inc.	\$7,922.00	Field of Dreams
Invoice	Lenox Nursery & Garden Ctr., Inc.	\$374.00	Field of Dreams
Invoice	Lenox Nursery & Garden Ctr., Inc.	\$17.00	Field of Dreams
Invoice#135480-04F	University of Mass. @ Amherst	\$3,500	GCRASM

Surrenden Farm dept vouchers 12/15/2011 & 6/15/2011

Communitywide Archaeological Survey, completion letter & final report

5. New Business

The following Project Managers were assigned:

2012-08 Boutwell House Repairs - Mike **Roberts**

2012-05 Prescott School Reuse Feasibility Assessment – **Richard Hewitt**

2012-04 Historical Records Restoration – **Bruce Easom**

2012-01 Housing Trust Fund FY2012 – **Carolyn Perkins**

6. Closing

Ms. Perkins moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Strauss seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Miller