

Groton Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of Public Meeting March 21, 2012

Location: Town Hall

Time: 7:00 PM

Members Present: Bob DeGroot (Chairman), Bruce Easom (Vice-Chair), Richard Hewitt (Clerk)
Laurie Smigelski, Dan Emerson, Carolyn Perkins

Guests: Gineane Haberlin

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM.

Mr. DeGroot announced there would be an amendment to the Agenda. Gineane Haberlin will be first on the agenda, and the rest of the agenda will go in its scheduled order.

1. CPC Vacancy – Gineane Haberlin

Mr. DeGroot delivered introductions to the CPC, and stated that Ms. Haberlin is interested in the “at large” vacancy. Mr. DeGroot asked Ms. Haberlin if she would like to share her background with the Committee. Ms. Haberlin responded that she is currently the co-chair for the Hazel Grove Committee. This Committee was charged with coming up with a 1, 3 & 5 year plan for Hazel Grove for the Parks Commission. This Committee is wrapping up shortly, and Ms. Haberlin was interested in a new way to serve the community as she found the experience very rewarding. She has a strong agricultural background and came from an area in New York where historic preservations has been ingrained since youth. Ms. Haberlin resides in West Groton with her family and has her own business working as an herbalist.

2. Project Updates

2006-11 Lost Lake Basketball Court – Still waiting for work to be done on trenches.

2007-13 GHA-Nashua Rd. – document provided containing updates

2010-01 Field of Dreams- Fencing is complete with the exception of the backstop. Protective edging on the fence and the dugout will be done by the little league. Field is on schedule to be used for this season.

2010-04 Groton Grange –Mr. Easom will complete close-out documents.

2011-04 Communitywide Survey – Agriculture – Ready to close-out

2012-01 Housing Trust Fund – FY2012 – Fran Stanley will be doing a presentation on low-income housing

2012-04 Historic Records Restoration, Phase 4 – All the documents have been received back in good quality. This project is also ready to close out.

2012-05 Prescott Reuse Feasibility Assessment – Mr. Hewitt reported that the report is complete. It seems the most consideration is being given to the 70% commercial/30% residential or the Inn option. Prescott has taken a slight back seat to the fire station situation. There will be a public hearing on April 10, 2012 at the Prescott school. The goal is to have something to present at fall Town Meeting.

2012-08 Rehabilitation for Governor Boutwell House –Major infrastructure work has been complete. It was reported that work on the outside of the building has started.

3. Final Vote – FY2013 Project Application (Conservation Fund)

Mr. DeGroot gave a brief background on the Conservation Application. Conservation is seeking \$150,000 to add to the Conservation Fund. The goal is to have enough money on hand to act quickly when desirable properties become available. As it is already established that this projects meets CPA criteria, Mr. DeGroot explained we are going to move right to voting on whether or not we are recommending Project 2013-01 Conservation Fund application to Town Meeting.

There was some confusion on whether or not the Surrenden Farm payments were increasing or decreasing. After a review by Mr. Easom it was determined that the Surrenden Farm payments have hit their highest peak and have actually started to decrease a bit.

It was suggested to go around the table and give everybody the chance to share their thoughts before a vote was taken. Ms. Smigelski began by stating she would be a little more comfortable with \$100,000. Mr. Hewitt also has some reservations regarding the \$150,000 but would be willing to go that route if that is what the rest of the Committee decides. Mr. Emerson would like to recommend the full amount requested and let Town Meeting decide. Ms. Perkins was also in favor of the full amount, especially given how the past couple of years have gone. Mr. DeGroot responded that he came ready to recommend \$150,000 despite being a bit skeptical at the last meeting. Mr. Easom is thankful for the consideration given by the CPC and is determined to make a better presentation at Town Meeting.

Ms. Smigelski moved to amend the original request of the Conservation Commission application 2013-01 from \$150,000 to \$100,000. Mr. Hewitt seconded. The motion was defeated with Mr. Hewitt and Ms. Smigelski in favor and Mr. Easom, Mr. DeGroot, Ms. Perkins and Mr. Easom against.

Ms. Perkins recommended approving the Conservation Commission application 2013-01 to Town Meeting in the amount of \$150,000 from the unallocated reserve fund. Mr. Easom seconded. The vote passed unanimous in favor with the exception of Ms. Smigelski who abstained.

(Ms. Perkins left meeting after Conservation vote)

4. Minutes

Mr. Easom moved to accept the minutes of March 5, 2012 as amended. Mr. DeGroot seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

5. Invoices/Documents

Invoice # 207496	Kofile Inc.Research	\$18,872.00	Historic Documents
Invoice # 6714	R.D. Fence Co.	\$7,635.00	Boutwell House

GHA Nashua Rd. update

6. New Business

Mr. DeGroot will speak to Mark Haddad, Town Manager regarding the board vacancy. It was suggested to confirm that there was adequate advertising before making any final decisions regarding the open seat on the board.

Ms. Miller announced that this would be her last meeting. Ms. Miller has accepted a position with the City of Leominster and her last day with the Town of Groton will be March 30, 2012.

7. Closing

Mr. Emerson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Easom seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Miller