

Groton Community Preservation Committee  
Minutes from April 8, 2013 at 7:00pm  
Town Hall, 2nd floor conference room

Members Present: Bob DeGroot, Russ Burke, Bruce Easom, Gineane Haberlin, Laurie Smigelski, Richard Hewitt  
Members Absent: Dan Emerson  
Others Present: Dawn Dunbar, CPC Administrative Assistant

Chairman DeGroot called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He said that he wanted to start by letting everyone know that the Committee would be attending the Board of Selectmen's (BOS) meeting at 7:15pm to discuss the proposed Ledge Rock Fields project application.

**1. Boutwell House Update – Project 2012-08 – Present: Al Collins**

Mr. Collins thanked Chairman DeGroot for presenting the Committee with his update at their last meeting. He said that over the past month there had been a flurry of work. He said the trim was just about completed, the first floor would be completed within the next couple of weeks, the downstairs would be done within the month and the ADA ramp, which was to be a landscaped ramp, would also be started. He said that they were preparing the house for the Women's Club 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 16<sup>th</sup> and any final touches would be completed over the next few months. He estimated that the project would come in under budget, about \$20,000 under budget. Mr. Collins asked if they could come back to the Committee if they did in fact come in under budget to request an amendment. Chairman DeGroot wondered if it would have to go to DOR. Member Easom suggested speaking to Town Counsel first. Member Hewitt said he thought proposed work would have to be closely related to the original project.

Member Hewitt asked if the paint colors chosen were historic colors. Mr. Collins said that the office would have a light color, but the first floor would be painted to match historic colors. Mr. Collins added that with the new heating system, they were able to shave 60% off their first month's bill when compared historically.

*The CPC meeting moved to the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 7:15pm and reconvened in the Second Floor Meeting Room at 7:40pm.*

**2. Project Updates**

1. 2010-01 – Field of Dreams – Member Smigelski said that she had done a site walk with Don Black that Saturday adding that the gates still needed to be installed. She was hoping that to have the project completed before the end of the spring.
2. 2012-08 – Boutwell House – Update was given by Mr. Collins earlier.
3. 2013-03 – Conservation Fund – Member Easom said that the Conservation fund had approximately \$10,000 left after purchasing the Cox/Walker property and paying the balance on the Open Space and Recreation plan. He said they could expect the \$400,000 Land Grant reimbursement from the State in July. He added that he would provide the Committee with a final report at one of the next meetings.
4. 2013-04 – Fitch's Bridge – Chairman DeGroot said that the work was underway and the new bridge was currently being fabricated.

**3. Ledge Rock Fields**

Chairman DeGroot asked if anyone had any questions/concerns relative to the Ledge Rock Fields application and any of the recent modifications. Member Smigelski said that she thought Mr. Strauss's presentation to the BOS went very smoothly. Member Hewitt said that Bridge Street was a concern for him and he was happy to hear it was going to be addressed.

**4. Minutes**

Member Haberlin moved to approve the minutes from March 14, 2013 as amended. Member Smigelski seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Member Easom abstained.

**5. Budget Update**

Chairman DeGroot asked if Member Easom could review the effect of the State match on the Surrenden Farm debt. Member Easom said that he had prepared two (2) graphs for the BOS's meeting if the question was asked. He said that as

long as the State match stayed above 22%, there would be no shortfall. If the State match fell to 10-20%, it would be time to start thinking about winding down the CPC. Member Easom said that the December 1<sup>st</sup> Community Preservation Coalition conference talked a lot about the future of the CPA. He said that the wind down would have to happen the same way it was adopted. Chairman DeGroot said that the 3% local surcharge would stay in effect until the Surrendan Farm debt was gone. Member Easom added that the Registry of Deeds income was 17.76% higher than this time last year.

Member Easom said that looking ahead to FY15 and given the fact that the Unallocated Reserve would pretty much be depleted if the Ledge Rock Fields application passed at town meeting, he asked if it was a good idea for them to continue funding the Housing Coordinator position. Member Haberlin asked where the funds would come from. Member Easom said it would be funded out of the Town Manager's budget or the Affordable Housing Trust's budget. Member Burke asked if it could be funded out of the Housing bucket as a yearly application for the purpose of conducting administrative oversight. Member Easom said they would have to check with the Coalition and maybe DOR to see if there are restrictions on CPA bins being used for that purpose.

Member Easom moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Member Hewitt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Dunbar  
CPC Administrative Assistant