

Groton Community Preservation Committee
Minutes from September 9, 2013 at 7:00pm
Town Hall, 2nd floor conference room

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

Chairman Hewitt called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

1. Boutwell House Project Update – Present: Al Collins

Mr. Collins said that he was present to submit a couple of invoices for approval. One was from Lorayne Black for design work done on an ADA ramp they were planning to install. He said this was an invoice for partial work thus far. Chairman Hewitt asked when the official opening was planned for. Mr. Collins said that the opening was scheduled for October 5th. Member Easom asked if the ADA ramp plan had been produced. Mr. Collins said that one had been done and had been provided to various boards for approval, such as HDC and Planning Board. He apologized adding that he should have brought one for the Committee to see. He added that Ms. Black had invoiced for partial hours based on work done thus far. He expected that it would come in a little under the \$2,500 originally budgeted for. Member Easom asked if there was landscaping involved. Mr. Collins said there would be some landscaping done adding that the money to do that was being fundraised and would not fall under the CPA application.

2. Lowell Road Generator Replacement Project Update – Present: Lisa Larrabee & Brooks Lyman

Ms. Larrabee said that the project was completed on August 6th and that the work came in under budget. She said that the total for the work came in at \$20,770 with \$13,770 of that being CPA funds used. There would be approximately \$2,228 going back to the CPA. Chairman Hewitt asked if the generator had been started. Ms. Larrabee said that it had been started a couple of times. Member Smigelski asked who was trained on how to use the generator. Ms. Larrabee said that the maintenance man and she had been trained. Chairman Hewitt asked if the money not used was to go back into the housing bucket. Member Easom said “yes.” Member Easom said that he didn’t think the project required any type of final report adding that the information presented that night. Multiple Members agreed.

Mr. Lyman said that the system had two (2) old pumps which run alternatively so that they last longer. He said that the pumps were old, that they were macerator /grinder pumps which according to the sewer commission needed to be used. He said that they have recently had problems with residents flushing towels down the toilets which jam the pumps. He said that the pumps weren’t made to handle towels, etc. Mr. Lyman said that each time this happened, it was a costly thing to fix. He said they were looking into installing a screen filter. He said if the pumps were in better condition, they might be able to grind up more (not a towel though).

Member Haberlin asked how old the pumps were. Ms. Larrabee said they had never been replaced which made them approximately 25 years old. Mr. Lyman said they had the cost estimated to replace the pumps and it would cost about \$17,000 to replace both pumps. This was not something the Housing Trust was able to cover in their budget.

Chairman Hewitt said the CPC’s role was to see if a project fit within the parameters of the CPA adding that he didn’t see why this wouldn’t comply. Member DeGroot agreed. Member Smigelski asked if there was room to install a screen. Mr. Lyman said they weren’t sure yet but were looking into it. Ms. Larrabee said that they might consider putting in an application for CPA funds.

3. Project Updates

2013-03 – Cox/Walker Property – Member Easom said that that Conservation Commission was in receipt of their LAND Grant check and they were still working on the conservation restriction. He said he was hoping to provide the Committee with a final report next month.

2013-04 – Fitch’s Bridge Replacement – Member Haberlin said that the bridge’s grand opening was on Sept. 15th from 1-2pm. She said that she had requested a budget summary and hoped to have it at their next meeting. She said the project was otherwise completed. Chairman Hewitt asked about the granite blocks that had been installed.

Member Smigelski wondered if someone had moved them because of how they were positioned. Member Haberlin said that two (2) of them were supposed to be lying down to prevent motorized vehicles from crossing the bridge but to also comply with ADA requirements.

2014-05 – Ledge Rock Fields – Member Easom said that a site walk had been done by the PARC Grant representatives along with the Town Manager, Jon Strauss and Phil Jordan. He said that Mr. Strauss had received a punch list from the State for a few missing items on their application. Mr. Strauss thought they had addressed those already so he was going to double check. Member Easom added that the Green Communities Research Committee had decided to pull the placeholder for this falls' town meeting. He said they were going to have to make some changes to the zooming bylaws and weren't ready to go to town meeting just yet.

4. Community Preservation Plan

Member Easom moved to approve the 2013-2014 Community Preservation Plan as amended. Member DeGroot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Budget Update

Member Easom said that it looked like the CPC would be getting their portion of the \$25M from the State's surplus in the budget. He figured sometime around mid-November. He said the DOR was going to make one lump sum payment to the towns. He added that it wouldn't be likely that they would have the final numbers for the Fall Town Meeting because of this and wondered if they should consider pulling the article. It was decided that they would contact the Coalition to see what they suggested and proceed accordingly.

6. Minutes

Member Emerson moved to accept the minutes of 7/22/13 as drafted. Member Smigelski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Member Hewitt abstaining.

Member DeGroot moved to accept the minutes 8/12/13 as amended. Member Emerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Easom moved to adjourn. Member DeGroot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Dunbar
CPC Administrative Assistant