

Groton Community Preservation Committee
Minutes from May 5, 2014 at 6:30pm
GDRMS Cafeteria

Members Present: Richard Hewitt, Russ Burke (6:39P), Bruce Easom, Gineane Haberlin, Dan Emerson
Not Present: Bob DeGroot
Others Present: Regina Beausoleil, Interdepartmental Assistant

Andrew Davis
Peter Morrison
Jon Strauss

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hewitt at 6:32PM.

Chairman Hewitt gave a brief overview for the members present as to the reason for the meeting. He stated since Ledge Rock Field Application was withdrawn he wanted to get the committees stance on what if anything they would like to do with the funds that were allocated to the Ledge Rock Application.

Mr. Strauss wanted to clarify for the Committee that the Park Commission recommended a NO vote at Town meeting but did not withdraw the application. The reasoning behind this was the Park Commission received late information that conducting a Level II Site Plan would not have helped the PARC grant. There was also a more ethical question on whether or not the timing was good due to the school budget issue.

Chairman Hewitt apologized to the Committee stating that he must have misunderstood and was under the impression the Park Commission had withdrawn their application rather than recommend it be voted down. He now asks the committee how they would like to proceed as he feels a withdrawal is a different situation than a NO vote at Town meeting. If the application had been withdrawn then reconsideration of funds can be discussed, but a no vote would open a can of worms of pitting applicants against each other on town meeting floor.

Member Easom stated the usual process would be a closeout letter requesting any and all invoices and notification that the project will be closed as well as notification to the Town Accountant. Mr. Strauss stated he will provide a letter of closeout to the Committee.

Member Emerson and Member Haberlin agreed a closeout letter for the 309K would be forthcoming.

Member Easom stated that he agrees with Chairman Hewitt. The committee aims to try and fund as many projects as possible, but at this time needs to protect the integrity of the Committee and the process. He recommended the Committee not fund anything additional at this time.

Member Haberlin stated that the Committee specifically asked the Sargisson Beach Committee to split it into 2 phases because there was not enough funding, if we can fully fund it now she stated the Committee should consider that. Chairman Hewitt acknowledged the fiduciary responsibility.

Mr. Strauss stated that he disagreed with Member Haberlin he feels that this will make groups potentially try to defeat each other's applications on town meeting floor in order to secure more funds for their projects.

Member Haberlin stated she would like to think the Town and its residents are better than that. Mr. Davis stated that if fully funding projects was the object then that should be explained in the Community Preservation Plan. Mr. Strauss also stated that the CPA process is a public, month's long process, it shouldn't be fair for applicants compete on town meeting floor for more funds than they had originally requested.

Chairman Hewitt asked Mr. Davis what would happen if they did not receive the extra funds at this time. Mr. Davis stated the Committee would be receiving an out-of-cycle application almost immediately. He stated Mark Haddad, Town Manager stated that phasing the project would not be best. Materials cannot be stored on site nor can they be moved around on site. Mr. Davis stated he would like to move forward rather than wait till fall.

Member Haberlin made a motion to change the funding that is contained in the Town Meeting Warrant article for Sargisson Beach from \$109,590 to \$150,590.

Member Burke stated that he supports the spirit of what is trying to be done, but feels it is opening the commission to being gamed.

Member Burke made a motion to adjourn at 6:49PM. Member Easom seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Beausoleil, Interdepartmental Assistant

APPROVED: JULY 26, 2016

APPROVED