



TOWN OF GROTON
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Community Preservation Committee
Robert DeGroot, Chair
Timothy Siok – Parks Comm.
Carolyn Perkins - Planning Board
Bruce Easom - Conservation Comm.
Daniel Emerson - Housing Auth.
Michael Roberts - at large
Richard Hewitt - at large

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, February 27, 2017
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, 173 Main Street
Members Present: Robert DeGroot, Timothy Siok, Bruce Easom, Daniel Emerson, Mike Roberts, Richard Hewitt
Absent Members: Carolyn Perkins
Others Present: Robin Eibye, Executive Assistant, Michael Laterz, Francine Forbes, Marshall Giguere, Jane Allen, Vanessa Abraham, William Strickland, Bob Kiley, Jim Luening, Art Prest, Alex Woodle, John McCaffrey, Brad Harper, Takashi Tada, Thomas Orcutt, Laurie Bonavita, James Gmeiner, Susan Horowitz

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m., and Committee members were introduced.

Chairman, Robert DeGroot provided an overview of the CPA. Audience member, Brad Harper inquired about the amount of CPA funding the Town of Groton receives. Mr. DeGroot provided an explanation about funding ratios and Bruce Easom clarified that last year the Town collected \$650,000 in the local surcharge tax and \$180,000 from State matched funding.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:16 p.m.

BYLAW REGULATIONS

Mr. DeGroot said the Committee held a vote and agreed to replace "Subsequent appointments shall be for a term of three years or until the person no longer serves in the position or on the board or committee as set forth above, whichever is earlier." With "Subsequent appointments from the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Housing Authority and members appointed by the Board of Selectmen shall serve three year terms. Appointments by the Parks Commission and the Planning Board shall serve one year terms. If a person no longer serves in the position or on the board or commission as set forth above, the replacement shall serve out the term of that person. Upon reappointment they will serve a full three year or one year term as described above."

Daniel Emerson moved to approve the Regulations as amended. Richard Hewitt seconded and the motion carried 6:0 (Carolyn Perkins, absent)

FY2018 PROJECTS

2018-01 Housing Coordinator

Laurie Bonavita introduced herself and said the Housing Coordinator is a vital position within the Land Use Department, and has been instrumental in assisting with the Academy Hill subdivision and the subdivision off of Red Pepper to create affordable housing. Ms. Bonavita made special note of the letter of recommendation from the Planning Board.

Dan Emerson asked how many units are in the Academy Hill and Red Pepper subdivision. Ms. Bonavita confirmed that Academy Hill has eight affordable units and Red Pepper has two affordable units. The Committee thanked Ms. Bonavita for her time.

2018-02 Baddacook Pond Restoration

James Leunig introduced himself and provided a brief explanation of Baddacook Pond and the need to restore the pond. Mr. Leunig said large sections of the pond are no longer accessible. Mr. Leunig said the Water Department has looked closely at the options presented in the application and is supportive of the project. Mr. Leunig mentioned the importance of keeping pesticides out of the pond. Mr. Leunig proposed a three year plan, and explained that the Selectmen have agreed to support the ongoing maintenance of the pond.

Richard Hewitt asked if funding were approved for only one year, would the project still be worth while pursuing. Mr. Leunig said that once the project begins you need to keep going to be successful. Brad Harper explained that Lost Lake was treated four years ago with safe herbicides and they worked very well. Mr. Harper went on to say he is a big supporter of the proposed project. Water Commission Chairman, John McCaffrey said getting rid of weeds is very difficult and he noted that he fully supports the project. A brief discussion ensued about herbicides, health hazards and the concern in Groton regarding herbicides.

Richard Hewitt asked what methods are being used to de-weed boats before they enter the pond. It was confirmed that the Town has laws against transporting weeds.

2018-04 Groton Library Entrance

Vanessa Abraham introduced herself and explained the proposed project is to replace the inner vestibule doors in the library's 1893 historic entrance. Mr. DeGroot said the Committee is happy with the application.

2018-05 Groton Library Building

Vanessa Abraham explained the proposed project is to assess the best way to address the longstanding water leaks in the 1893 historic building.

2018-07 National Register Nomination – Old Meeting House/First Parish Church

Michael Laterz provided an overview of the project and noted letters of support from Town Manager, Mark Haddad and Steve Lieman, Chair, Old Groton Meetinghouse Advisory Committee.

2018-08 Conservation Fund FY18 Project

Takashi Tada explained the proposal is requesting \$25,000 to help the Commission reach its goal to maintain an amount between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 in the Conservation Fund. Mr. Tada noted that as of January 1, 2017, the Conservation Fund balance is \$726,517.

2018-09 Prescott School Restoration

Mary Jennings said the request totaling \$42,350 is to continue the installation of an automatic sprinkler system along with other safety improvements to the Prescott School.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:04 p.m.

OPEN PROJECT UPDATE DISCUSSION

2017-01 Housing Coordinator – ongoing

2017-04 GHC Monuments Restoration – Mr. Roberts confirmed the project will kick off in the spring.

2017-05 Friends of Prescott – Bruce Easom explained they are waiting for a requote for the sprinkler work.

2017-07 Williams Barn – Mr. Easom said work is expected to begin this spring.

2016-07 Milestone Engraving – Mr. Roberts said the five colonial milestones project is on hold until spring due to weather.

2016-03 Old Meeting House/First Parish Church – Mr. Roberts confirmed the project is just about finished pending the weathervane installation.

2016-04 Basketball Courts – Mr. Siok said the project is complete, and the close out letter was reviewed and signed by the Committee.

2015-04 Milestone Restoration – Mr. Roberts said the 27 granite milestone project is complete and the close out letter was reviewed and signed by the Committee.

MINUTES

Draft minutes from February 13, 2017, were reviewed.

Bruce Easom moved to accept the February 13, 2017, minutes as amended. Richard Hewitt seconded and the motion carried 6:0 (Carolyn Perkins, absent)

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

A discussion ensued about FY2018 and the Committee agreed to send a courtesy letter to the Finance Committee detailing the preliminary FY2018 CPA project funding scenario.

Michael Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m., Bruce Easom seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Eibye, Executive Assistant

APPROVED: Monday, March 27, 2017

APPROVED