



TOWN OF GROTON
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, April 23, 2018
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, 173 Main Street
Members Present: Bruce Easom, Daniel Emerson, Richard Hewitt, Carolyn Perkins
Absent Members: Timothy Siok, Robert DeGroot

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Bruce Easom at 7:06 p.m., and the agenda was reviewed.

2018-02 OLD MEETING HOUSE PRESERVATION, PHASE 2

Mr. Easom talked about the letter dated April 16, 2018, from Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Town Manager, Mark Haddad said the letter is cause for concern because of the legal issues surrounding the issue. Mr. Haddad said he is worried about the Town's liability. A discussion ensued about withdrawing before it goes before Town meeting.

Steve Lieman said the project is about preserving the building not about promoting religion, and he prefers the grant move forward rather than withdrawing it before Town meeting so that the voters can decide for themselves.

Richard Hewitt asked Mr. Haddad that if the funds were granted and the court later ruled against such funding, would the church be responsible for returning the funds to the Town? Mr. Haddad said he was not certain of the answer. Daniel Emerson said he was not comfortable moving forward to recommend the project due to the potential liability.

Mr. Hargraves said that a 1967 Warrant Article states that if the building was no longer used for religious or educational purposes, it would revert back to the Town.

Mr. Easom displayed Land Court document 702750 from Mass Land Records. A discussion ensued about the reasons to support the project and the concerns associated with the potential risks to the Town.

Mr. Easom said because the courts have not determined which side they will rule in favor or against, it is probably best to wait while the courts figure it out. Mr. Easom noted the ongoing Acton case and said the case was brought against the Town of Acton and did not include the church, so the Town of Acton was solely responsible for the financial burden associated with the court case.

Carolyn Perkins moved to reconsider the vote for project #2019-02 OLD MEETING HOUSE/FIRST PARISH, PHASE 2.

Daniel Emerson seconded and the motion carried 4:0.

Daniel Emerson moved to not recommend project #2019-02 OLD MEETING HOUSE/FIRST PARISH, PHASE 2, to Town Meeting due to the Community Preservation Plan's Scoring Requirements 12.2.2 Value, No. 5 and the level of risk to the Town in light of the recent letter dated April 16, 2018, from the Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Carolyn Perkins seconded and the motion carried 3:1 (Richard Hewitt).

2018-01 HOUSING COORDINATOR FUNDING DISCUSSION

Mr. Easom said the Committee received a request to change the funded amount as the original amount was incorrect. A brief discussion ensued.

Carolyn Perkins moved to amend the recommendation for application #2019-01 HOUSING COORDINATOR for funding in the amount of \$50,688.00 to be funded out of the Community Housing Reserve bin to Town Meeting for consideration.

Daniel Emerson seconded and the motion carried 4:0.

CPC BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Easom said there were no budget updates at this time.

JD Poor Mural

A discussion ensued about the second "Deed of Gift" wording in the JD Poor Mural motion passed on March 26, 2018.

Daniel Emerson moved to strike the words "a second Deed of Gift" from the motion to recommend the JD Mural Preservation to Town Meeting for consideration and replace it with "a Loan Agreement"

The motion now reads as follows:

Bruce Easom moved to recommend amended application #2019-04 JD POOR MURAL PRESERVATION for funding in the amount of \$18,000 to be funded out of the Historic Reserve bucket to Town Meeting and a requirement that no funds be dispersed until a DEED OF GIFT is executed between Indian Hill Music Center and the Groton Historic Society covering the ownership and custody of the murals to the standards provided by the society of American archivists and further a LOAN AGREEMENT be executed between the Groton Historic Society and the Groton Inn regarding the custody for the murals also to the standards of the Society of American Archivists.

Richard Hewitt seconded and the motion passed 3:0:1 (Carolyn Perkins, abstained)

MINUTES

Draft minutes from April 9, 2018, were reviewed.

Carolyn Perkins moved to accept the April 9, 2018, minutes as written.

Richard Hewitt seconded and the motion carried 4:0.

Carolyn Perkins moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Richard Hewitt seconded and the motion carried 4:0.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Eibye, Executive Assistant

APPROVED: MAY 14, 2018

APPROVED