



TOWN OF GROTON
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Community Preservation Committee
Carolyn Perkins, Chair & Planning Board
Timothy Siok – Park Commission
Bruce H. Easom – Conservation Commission
Robert DeGroot – Historical Commission
Daniel Emerson - Housing Authority
Richard Hewitt - at large
Brooks Lyman - at large

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, March 11, 2019
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room, 173 Main Street
Members Present: Carolyn Perkins, Daniel Emerson, Brooks Lyman, Robert DeGroot, Bruce H. Easom and Timothy Siok
Absent Members: Richard Hewitt

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Carolyn Perkins at 7:05 PM.

DISCUSSION OF FY20 CPA PROJECT APPLICATIONS – REVIEW APPROVED PROJECTS AND CURRENT STATUS

2020-13 Cemetery Renovation / Preservation

Don Black was present and submitted a withdrawal letter for the Cemetery Renovation / Preservation CPA Application #2020-13 to Carolyn Perkins. Please refer to the attached letter.

REVIEW PROJECT UPDATES

PROJECT UPDATES – PRESCOTT SCHOOL

Bruce Easom provided an update on the Prescott School. Based on an unexpected interpretation of the Massachusetts Historical Commission's application instructions, Prescott School's new sprinkler system is not eligible for Massachusetts Preservation Project funding. After speaking with the Town Manager, Friends of Prescott, Inc. have decided to go ahead and release the RFQ and proceed to getting quotes on the sprinkler system. If the quotes come in in the range expected they will proceed using the Town's CPA funds alone. The application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission will not be submitted by the March 22nd, 2019 deadline.

Carolyn Perkins went over dates Prescott School is available to do a tour of finished work. Committee members will visit on Thursday.

REVIEW CPC BUDGET

Bruce Easom provided an overview of the preliminary budget. Assumption was that the state match was going to be 10%. Per Department of Revenue 11.57% should be used as the state match instead. This would yield an estimated increase of \$1,050 difference per bin. The final figures will be available in November.

Per the Community Preservation Plan proposed projects should be evaluated based on merit in the event of limited funds.

CPC BILLS

Committee members reviewed and signed one invoice from Groton Electric Light for the Duck Pond Restoration Project.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee members reviewed minutes from Monday, February 25th.

Daniel Emerson moved to approve the meeting minutes from Monday, February 25th. Brooks Lyman seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote with Robert DeGroot and Bruce Easom abstaining.

Brooks Lyman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM. Timothy Siok seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by Sammie Kul, Inter-Departmental Assistant

APPROVED: MARCH 25, 2019

Groton Cemetery Association

Chicopee Row

Groton, MA 01450

March 11, 2019

Re: CPC Application #2020-13

To the Members of the Community Preservation Committee:

The Groton Cemetery was founded in 1847 with the purchase of eleven acres from Joshua Gilson. As the town grew and land acquisition opportunities became available, the cemetery was expanded in 1883 and then again in 1938 when thirty three acres were donated by Antoinette Williams. The Williams donation brought the cemetery's total acreage from the original twenty one acres to fifty four acres. In 1997 the Cemetery Association voted to donate one acre back to the Williams Barn CPC project so that adequate parking space could be provided for all public and private events held at the Williams Barn.

The Groton Cemetery Association is a private entity consisting of twelve Trustees and is and always has been the governing body. The Association is responsible for managing the day to day operations as well as the care, maintenance and interments which take place on the property.

In 2022 we will observe 175 years of service to the community. Within our borders lie the graves of men and women who have made major contributions to the history of Groton and the country. Our Veterans graves total over 500 markers and are signified by the placement of the US flag at each gravesite. We are one of the few cemeteries in these United States that contains the graves of men and women who have served this country in every major conflict. The engravings on curbed family plots, creative headstones, sculptures and inscriptions provide a time capsule to the past. Wind, weather and settling takes its toll on these pieces of history. It is our duty to make sure that they are preserved not only for our generation but future generations as well. It is for this reason that we make application to become part of the Groton Community Preservation Plan.

However, after giving careful consideration to the multiple historic assets on this site, The Trustees of the Groton Cemetery Association, feel the efforts of restoration and preservation are best served through the process that has governed the property for the last 172 years. We will continue as a private entity as was the intent of the original founders. Our goals as depicted in the CPC application will not change. We will however find other sources to fund our preservation project. To that point, we withdraw CPC application #2020-13. We appreciate the time and consideration the CPC has given our submission.

Sincerely,

The Groton Cemetery Association