



TOWN OF GROTON
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Community Preservation Committee
Bruce Easom, Chair – Conservation Comm.
Carolyn Perkins – at large
Russell Burke – Planning Board
Robert DeGroot – Historical Comm.
Daniel Emerson – Housing Auth.
Anna Eliot – Parks Comm.
Richard Hewitt – at large

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, April 10th, 2023
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall
Members Present: Richard Hewitt, Anna Eliot, Russell Burke, Bruce H. Easom, Daniel Emerson
and Carolyn Perkins
Member Absent: Robert DeGroot
Others Present:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Bruce Easom at 7:01 PM.

REVIEW CPC BUDGET

Bruce Easom provided updates on the budget.

FY23 vs F24 for the four bins.

Forecast balance

ASK BRUCE FOR COPY OF BUDGET SPREADSHEET

Local surtax revenue, unallocated reserve balance

Need to consider prelim expenses

Interest payment only; no principal

Track payments coming out of fy23

Bruce Easom forwarded the proposed principal payments to Town Manager and Town Treasurer; payment in June; they're all on board with this.

Russ Burke – confirmed we'll still have cash in hand?

Bruce Easom – went over unallocated reserve balance; have some money since don's other project wasn't recommended

Won't know match until after the Fall Town Meeting

Bills from school came in for \$30K after town meeting but Town Manager will pay these out of the town's budget; costs keep increasing at the middle school

Carolyn Perkins moved to accept this Breakdown for exp for fy23 and fy24 at the STM; Dan Emerson seconded; all in favor.

At next meeting decide who's making the motions

ALLOCATION OF Bins – BRUCE

Housing trust 24-01 – DAN

24-02 lake – RICHARD

24-03 CONSERVATION – CAROLYN

24-04 – ANNA

Cutler Field – ANNA

HOUSING COORDINATOR – RUSS

Squannacook River rail trail – CAROLYN

EMAIL THE TOWN MANAGER TO LET HIM KNOW WHO MOVERS ARE

Anna Eliot 24-05 Park Commission met last week

Brendan Mahoney, member of parks commission was present

Promoting fields for the kids of Groton; fields are in bad shape

Need to have a plan in place to take care of these fields; make sure they're maintained

Bruce Easom – can't use money to maintain the fields

Brendan Mahoney – need to communicate better amongst the different user groups

Geld invoices

Why are lights on at 10PM; no one is out there - soccer over at 7PM; try to find rational solution

Programmed to be on until 10PM; Brendan resolved that

Cow Pond – had to purchase pump; ones installed were underpowered; not putting out a lot of water; changed all of the heads; resolved that; found vendors that will be helping us

If spending \$80-90K critical we have a plan in place; Brendan Mahoney happy to help

Critical that we hire the right vendors and consultants; plan to get it done is by hiring the right vendors

Brendan Mahoney is interviewing all of these companies; fertilizing and irrigation

Parks has hiring authority

Estimates – making sure we're comparing apples to apples

Carolyn Perkins – thanked and appreciated Brendan's plan for how to use the money and info; provides CPC members with a certain level of confidence

Proactive

Dan Emerson – will be introducing CPA articles; suggested Brendan Mahoney attend; get more parents involved

Most parents don't have time because of family commitments

As a result, a lot of people don't know what's going on in town

Town can pay for maintenance

State law dictates that CPA funds can't be used for maintenance

Brendan Mahoney suggested someone speak to the DPW re maintenance side of parks; parks used to have DPW member on the Board which was helpful

Parks – waiting for MEPA to get back to them

Squannacook River Rail Trail – new person at natural heritage; former person allowed 2 week extension to do work; new guy is saying no and will not waive requirement; expertise to do the turtle sweep; Peter Cunningham's daughter is certified so may go with her

Natural field is a football field

MS Track – there have been some additional costs that have come on but they will NOT be passed onto CPC

Stone – hired stone mason; retainer invoice tonight; "set up costs" such as insurance costs etc; Town Manager agreed to a certain amount of money; vendor will start in a couple of weeks

Bates – assessing ground condition – should be done by end of fiscal year

REVIEW PROJECT UPDATES IF ANY

PROJECT UPDATES – 2020-03 CONSERVATION FUND

Bruce Easom informed members that they are in the process of finalizing a few items on the Casella parcel purchase.

PROJECT UPDATES – 2022-04 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SITE ASSESSMENT STUDY

Daniel Emerson provided the update below from Fran Stanley:

I have one update regarding the Fieldstone Drive parcels.

As you know, the Housing Trust has contracted with an engineer to do some testing of the Fieldstone Drive parcels. Some work has already been completed. Soil testing is one of the tasks and it involves digging test pits. Because the back hoe would need to cross a wetlands area in

order to access the desired uplands area, the Trust will need to file an RDA with the Conservation Commission. An RDA is a Request for Determination of Applicability. The testing itself is an exempt task, but the crossing of the wetlands could be damaging to the wetlands and so an RDA filing is required.

In conclusion, the soil testing will be delayed until this administrative process is complete.

PROJECT UPDATES – 2023-03 PRESCOTT STONE PROJECT

Carolyn Perkins informed members that they have hired a contractor and are in the process of arranging a start date for him.

NEW / OLD BUSINESS

CPC INVOICES

Committee members reviewed and signed invoices.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee members reviewed minutes from March 27th, 2023.

Anna Eliot moved to approve the meeting minutes from Monday, March 27th, 2023. Russell Burke seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Richard moved to adjourn the meeting at <<7:40>> PM. <<Anna>> seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by Sammie Kul, Inter-Departmental Assistant