



**TOWN OF
GROTON**
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

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

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, August 28th, 2023
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room, Groton Town Hall
Members Present: Bruce Easom, Daniel Emerson, Richard Hewitt, Russell Burke, Anna Eliot
Members Absent: Robert DeGroot, Carolyn Perkins
Others Present: Katie Berry

The meeting was called to order by vice chair, Anna Eliot at 7:02 PM.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN & CPA APPLICATION UPDATES- The committee reviewed the close out letter submitted by Sue Adams in regards to the Groton Country Club Recreational Courts project that gave some feedback regarding the CPA application process. The committee discussed and has chosen to offer both Word and fillable PDF versions of the CPA application this year and to place both options on the website. A photo taken by Bruce Easom of the pickleball courts, that were created as part of the Groton Country Club Recreational Courts project, was chosen for the 23-24 Community Preservation Plan cover photo, and completed project profiles will be added for the Squannacook River Rail Trail project, as well as the Prescott Stone Wall project.

PICKLE BALL COURT MAINTENANCE- Bruce Easom began by informing the chair, Russell Burke, about this topic that had begun at a previous Community Preservation Committee meeting, regarding the expense of ongoing maintenance for the pickleball courts that were installed at The Groton Country Club. The concern being the ability to make sure that the pickleball court resurfacing and maintenance is being budgeted for by the payment of pickleball user fees, as agreed upon at the start of the initial CPA project. Anna Eliot reinforced that at the start of the project, it was made clear that the tax payers would not be liable for future maintenance of the courts. Russell Burke wishes to be sure that the Community Preservation Committee doesn't overreach by dictating how the Groton Country Club manages their expenses. Anna Eliot clarified that the Community Preservation Committee will need to make sure that the applicants know that they are responsible for maintenance on any CPA projects. Bruce Easom stated that the intent is to make sure these CPA projects do not become a burden to the town and taxpayers. Bruce Easom will set up a meeting with Town Manager, Mark Haddad, to discuss an appropriate resolution.

SMALL CPA PLAQUE ORDERING UPDATES- Katie Berry informed the committee that she has requested estimates for (10) 18" CPA signs from 3 different companies and is hopeful to share the estimates at a future meeting in September.

CPA PLAQUE INSTALLATION UPDATES AT MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK AND PICKLE BALL COURTS- Bruce Easom installed the CPA project sign at the pickleball courts last week and will report back regarding installing a sign at the new Middle School track once he talks with the sign committee.

PROJECT UPDATES

NEW PROJECT UPDATES

- 2024-01 Housing Trust Funds Request (CAROLYN PERKINS)- no updates.
- 2024-02 Preservation of Lake Massapoag (ROBERT DEGROOT)- no updates.
- 2024-03 Conservation Fund FY2024 (BRUCE EASOM)- Bruce Easom states that the Conservation Commission is looking at a potential land purchase and will report back with more information at a future meeting.
- 2024-04 Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond (ANNA ELIOT)- No new updates, Anna Eliot will have an update at next meeting.
- 2024-05 Construct 2 Softball Diamonds at Cutler (ANNA ELIOT)- No new updates, Anna Eliot will have an update at next meeting.
- 2024-07 Housing Coordinator FY2024 (CAROLYN PERKINS)- Housing Coordinator, Fran Stanley is working, no additional updates.
- 2024-09 Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) (BRUCE EASOM)- Bruce Easom stated that one more section from Harvard Pond to North Crossing is next.

CONTINUED PROJECT UPDATES

- 2020-03 Conservation Fund (BRUCE EASOM)- Bruce Easom shared that Conservation Commission is still working on the conservation restrictions, the Department of Conservation and Recreation is reviewing, and next they will need to be recorded at the registry of deeds.
- 2019-08 Duck Pond Restoration (RICHARD HEWITT)- Richard Hewitt shared that the aeration is working well, as shown by the Dissolved Oxygen levels all the way to the bottom at each test point, the abundance of wildlife, and the amount of open water that the circulation enables. The large amount of rain has kept the pond quite full, which positively impacts some of the data. The water quality remains good, primarily because runoff into the pond is negligible, and with no public boat launch, there are very few boats to introduce invasive species, trash, or chemicals.
- 2022-01 Maintenance Shed Restoration (ROBERT DEGROOT)- Robert DeGroot had emailed that the project is close to completion.
- 2022-02 Feasibility Study for Cow Pond Fields; Woitowicz Field; Cutler Field (ANNA ELIOT)- Anna Eliot shared with the committee that she has been working with Matt Waterman on this project, still moving forward, however a parcel is under jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission under Article 97. The Conservation Commission is allocating \$2000 to seek counsel on the parcel. There are moving parts for the project that will need to fall into place.
- 2022-04 Affordable Housing Site Assessment Study (DANIEL EMERSON)- Dan Emerson will email Fran Stanley and send a report to the committee.
- 2022-06 Squannacook River Rail Trail (BRUCE EASOM)- Bruce Easom stated that this project can be closed out, Katie Berry will draft close out documents.
- 2022-09 Groton Dunstable Natural Field Restoration Plan (BRUCE EASOM)- Bruce Easom asked Katie Berry to contact Sherry Kersey to arrange a site walk on Monday 9/11/23 at 3:00pm. Sherry Kersey had provided an update as to how the project is moving forward, seed has been planted.
- 2023-04 Nashua Riverwalk (CAROLYN PERKINS)- no updates.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

- Sign Invoices/ Project letters- invoices and close out letters were signed by present members.
- Select next meeting date/time- The Community Preservation Committee will meet on Monday 9/11/23 7:00pm.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee members reviewed minutes from August 14th 2023. Richard Hewitt moved to approve the meeting minutes from Monday, August 14th, 2023. Dan Emerson seconded and the motion carried, with Anna Eliot abstaining.

Bruce Easom moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29PM. Dan Emerson seconded, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Berry, Inter-Departmental Assistant

Approved: ___9/25/23_____