

Minutes

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Meeting

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Held virtually only

Present: Brittany Besler, Paul Carey, Mike Penko, Rick Porter, Chris Scott, Joan Scribner, Russ Wood

Absent: None

Guests: Representatives of the Historical Commission, Lakes and Ponds Committee and Open Space Committee

1. This virtual meeting of the CPC was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Roll call attendance was taken and the minutes of the December 7, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Discussion regarding Phase 2 of the Lakes and Ponds study ensued. The chair of that committee, Gary Strichatz as well as member Mike Penko presented what Phase 2 would cover including the taking of sediment samples from Mill Pond, the cost estimate for dredging of same, and a management plan for future work. The requested amount for this phase from the CPC is \$50,000. A motion was made and seconded and that motion for said amount carried unanimously. Mike will submit a draft article to the town manager for the annual town meeting and the CPC will schedule a public hearing on April 5, 2023 at 7:05 p.m.
3. Discussion regarding possible funding of a bridge on the Robertson conservation land was then held. Details of what would be required for the bridge were presented by Mike Penko with support from Open Space Committee member Marcella Stasa. These details included design, construction, labor, materials, administrative and miscellaneous costs for the project. Partial funding may come from a competitive grant the application of which is in process. It was moved and seconded and unanimously approved for the requested CPC amount of \$120,000 to be submitted as an article for the annual town meeting. Mike Penko will draft the article and the CPC will schedule a public hearing on this project on April 5, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.
4. Discussion on the Upton Historical Commission's request for funding for a new sign at Heritage Park was led by members of that Commission - Joan Burrell and Craig Weinfuss. The cost of \$5,000 to create the sign on Acrylic background with foam carved to look like the original sign and produced by the Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School was requested. Funding falls within the requirements of the CPC for historical projects. The motion was moved and seconded and without further discussion passed unanimously. Craig will submit a place holder article to the town manager for the annual town meeting and the CPC will schedule a public hearing on April 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
5. Discussion by Joan Burrell and Ed Phillips of the Historical Commission concerning funding for improvements (interior and exterior) of the Grange Hall (formerly the Center School) took place. Although preservation requests may fall within the CPC guidelines certain limitations were discussed and suggestions for additional funding from preservation grants were made. Information about the Community Preservation Coalition's website was given. No specific

request was made and the decision to continue this discussion at future CPC meetings was agreed upon.

6. The annual report for the town written by Chair Paul Carey was reviewed, unanimously approved and will be submitted by him to the town manager.
7. Discussion of future meetings and a hybrid option took place. At this point in time the town has not yet hired an additional administrator to give guidance and training for Town Committees to host hybrid meetings so for the time being the CPC will continue to hold meetings virtually only.
8. Paul shared that the CPC trust fund as of the end of November was \$301,522 with a 58% matching amount from the town of \$515,046. Recently added surplus funds from the State of \$82,641 will show in the funding for 2023.
9. Motion to adjourn was seconded and unanimously approved at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the CPC will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Scribner, Clerk