

Minutes

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Held virtually only

Present: Brittany Besler, Paul Carey, Mike Penko, Rick Porter, Chris Scott, Joan Scribner, Russ Wood,
and Town Clerk Denise Smith

Absent: None

1. This virtual meeting of the CPC was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Attendance was taken and the agenda reviewed. The minutes of the October 5, 2022 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.
2. The Lakes and Ponds study request for \$75,000 previously approved at the October meeting was reviewed because at Upton's November Special Town Meeting the amount approved by the town was for \$40,000. Mike explained that this would cover Phase 1 testing. Monies approved by the CPC for the project will remain at \$75,000 and the additional funding may be used for the next phases of this study.
3. Chair Paul Carey spoke on the selection of a Vice Chair and a Clerk for the CPC and nominated Mike Penko as Vice Chair and Joan Scribner as Clerk to serve through the 2023 annual town meeting in May. The recommendations were seconded by Chris Scott and after little discussion were approved unanimously.
4. Discussion was held concerning updates to the CPC website and possible future training for same. Mike indicated that he would be willing to keep the CPC site fresh and Denise (town clerk) said that she would talk with the Town Manager re: website training for Boards and Committees.
5. Discussion was held concerning our future meetings and hybrid options. Some department meetings are better suited to different formats – virtual/hybrid/in person. Brittany indicated that she would be happy to volunteer to help run our meetings hybrid should we plan to go in that direction. Paul indicated that he would be willing to meet with her to see what would be required.
6. Joan Burrell, a representative from the Historical Commission joined our meeting to express interest by the Commission for the CPC's financial help in funding a new sign for Heritage Park in town. She spoke of the reasons the sign needed to be replaced and the research that Committee members had already begun to explore for the replacement. One option is through Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational high school and another option is through Garion Sign out of Maine. It was suggested that they also approach the Selectmen for use of Beautification Trust Fund monies for this project. Joan will do that and has asked to be on the agenda for the January CPC meeting for updates and/or official funding requests.

7. Additionally, Joan Burrell inquired as to whether or not repairs/renovations to the Grange Hall would fit within the CPC funding guidelines. As it is an historical building and nonprofit then depending upon the types of renovations it is possible that they would fit but more discussion and detail would be needed before such a project would be considered.
8. Other business: The annual report is due to the town manager by January 10, 2023, using the same template as the current year. For clarification, Denise stated that the report covers a calendar year and not a fiscal year. Paul and Brittany volunteered to work on a draft of this report.
9. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45.
10. The next scheduled meeting is set for Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Scribner, Clerk