

Community Preservation Committee
April 7, 2021

Present: Rena Richard, Chair – Upton Housing Authority
Paul Carey, Vice-Chair – Planning Board
Chris Scott – Conservation Commission
Richard Gazoorian – Recreation Commission
Richard Desjardins – Selectmen’s Appointee
Joan Scribner – Selectmen’s Appointee
Mike Penko - Open Space Committee
Dave Adams – Selectmen’s Appointee
Russell Wood – Historical Commission

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Moved and approved unanimously (roll call vote) to open public hearing.
2. Open public hearing at 7:33 p.m. regarding playground proposal.

Jim Brochu (Chair), Steve Kirby, Nate Burgess, Bill Silvia and Peter Flinker from Upton Community Center Building Committee.

Presentation by Mr. Brochu and Committee.

Building will be a senior center and library. Existing playground will be moved and enhanced. All but one piece of equipment will be re-used.

New slides to lower nature area.

Playground will be wheelchair accessible.

Mr. Gazoorian questioned the amount of the request. The request is for \$519,982, which is down from original estimates of \$560,000.

Ms. Richard asked whether there have been public comments on the playground. Some comments in favor of keeping the playground at the site. Ms. Richard said the CPC received no written comments.

There is sufficient handicap parking that meets ADA requirements.

Michelle Antinarelli questioned the surface by the swings. Rubber poured in place for most areas but under the swings will be engineered wood chips covered by rubber mats. Does the fence completely enclose the playground? Answer: yes.

Additional public comments received by the Committee included request for new equipment and a skate park.

Public hearing closed at 7:58 p.m.

3. Prior meeting minutes unanimously approved (roll call vote).
4. Discussion regarding request for playground funding.

Board members stated that the applicant has done a good job and answered all questions.

Mr. Gazoorian noted that 100% of the cost is being requested of CPC.

Mr. Penko asked whether the group had considered applying for a PARC Grant. They have not. Mr. Penko urged the applicants to look into applying for a grant.

Motion to recommend the project to Town Floor for \$520,000 approved unanimously (roll call and vote).

5. Discussion with Howard Glassman and Don Spargo – Historical Commission – regarding a request for funding for a park bench in memory of Barbara Burke at Heritage Park.

Cost would be approximately \$2,100.

Ms. Burke was a longtime member of the Historical Commission and instrumental in the creation of Heritage Park.

Lyn Haggerty stated that the bench should be placed in an accessible spot to meet ADA requirements.

Mr. Carey questioned why this was not going to a public hearing.

Moved to send the request to Town Floor for approval.

Approved 8-1 (roll call vote).

6. Presentation by Lyn Haggerty. Town Meeting Article 26 is to fund a ramp for the Risteen Building to provide access. Building will still not be ADA compliant as it will only allow access to a portion of the building.

Mr. Adams questioned why this request should not go to a public hearing.

Discussion regarding whether an article could be prepared for Town Meeting.

Town Clerk noted that the warrant has been closed and the existing Warrant Article 26 specifies free cash as source of funds.

Michele Antinarelli stated she thought the source of funding could be changed on Town floor.

Questions from Mr. Brochu addressed –Planning Board said no site plan approval was required.

Ms. Haggerty said there are engineered drawings for a compliant ramp. The rear doorway is large enough to be compliant. An interior doorway will need to be widened.

Question as to whether grants were available. Ms. Haggerty said possibly, but time is of the essence.

Mr. Desjardins stated that the existing building would need much more significant renovations to be accessible.

Mr. Penko moved to set a public hearing on May 5 to hear the proposal, assuming Town Counsel states the source of funding can be changed on Town Floor or an article is added to the Town Meeting Warrant to approve the request.

Approved unanimously (roll call vote).

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.