

**Minutes**  
**Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee**  
**September 11, 2014**  
**Acton Memorial Library**

Members Present: Peter Ashton (Chair), Peter Berry, Tory Beyer, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Joe Will (Clerk)

Others Present: Roland Bartl (Acton Planning Director), Roland Bourdon (Finance Committee observer); Bettina Abe (Acton Natural Resources Department), Neil Gordon (The Discovery Museums CEO), Bill Ryan (The Discovery Museums BOD Chair)

Peter A opened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

**1. Annual Public Hearing** (posted for 7:30 PM)

- Peter A read the Public Hearing notice.
- Bettina described a possible proposal from Natural Resources: Replacement of the 20+-yr-old Arboretum fern boardwalk to be ADA compliant, professionally built, and to cost about \$30K (\$25K for 200-ft boardwalk; \$5K for tree removal). Friends of Acton Arboretum and public boardwalk fund would contribute.
- Joe presented a three-page summary of extant funded Recreation Department projects and mentioned two possible proposals from Recreation: Phase II of the T. J. O'Grady Skatepark (see aforementioned summary) and wells to provide water for the Arboretum and Morrison Farm. No \$ amounts mentioned.
- Neil described an "investment in the outdoors" envisioned for The Discovery Museums (TDM) on 4.5 acres immediately adjacent to the Great Hill Conservation Land. There would be a nature-based playscape featuring an amphitheater, and a tree house (400-500 ft<sup>2</sup> indoors and ~200 ft<sup>2</sup> outdoors) that could hold up to 49 people. All would be inclusive in design. Entire cost would be \$500K-\$1M. Anticipated CPA proposal would be for 10-20%. TDM has talked, and is willing to collaborate, with Eileen Sullivan about her currently funded nature-playspaces project at the Acton Schools. TDM is talking with Tom Tidman about Great Hill accessibility. TDM could possibly involve students from Minuteman Tech with the project. Peter B urged that TDM talk to Roland to be sure that the proposal meets CPA criteria, likely as a recreation project. Roland pointed out a section (p. 8) in the 2015 Community Preservation Plan on how CPA funds can be used, and also the CPA Website that could provide ideas on what others have done.
- Roland pointed out that in keeping the Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT) moving forward, we've gone through quite a chunk of the \$170K that was awarded in 2004. The ARRT design is being brought to completion next year. At a similar point in the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail project, it was helpful to have \$ available. It would be prudent to have a similar situation for the ARRT so that lack of \$ will not put the project at risk. Having new \$ not available until May would be no problem (ARRT work window this year was mid-April to the end of August). How much will be requested? Not sure yet.
- Peter A said that there will be no land-acquisition proposal coming from the Open Space Committee.

- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to close the Public Hearing.

## **2. Issue 2015 Community Preservation Plan**

The Committee reviewed the Recreation changes that weren't in the previous, otherwise final, draft. Peter A suggested minor corrections and a significant insertion of material that had been omitted in preparing this draft. Roland pointed out that the Town does not print the final document; rather it goes onto the Web—fairly soon after it is accepted.

- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to accept the 2015 Community Preservation Plan.

## **3. Minutes of August 14, 2014**

Peter A had a minor correction.

- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected.

## **4. Project Updates and Status**

Susan has updated the spreadsheet and will send it out. Regarding the distribution shell, IT will not put anyone onto the shell unless s/he is a member of the committee (or staff). For distribution to others, e.g., Roland Bourdon, Roland Bartl has to remember to add their names to the distribution list.

## **5. Administrative update**

There does not appear to be much to do until project applications come in, so we will cancel the 09/25, 10/23, and 11/06 meetings. (We will not give up the room yet for 11/06.) The next meeting will be 10/09 and we may not even need that meeting . . . then 11/20 unless something comes up in the interim.

8:50 PM — It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.