

**Minutes**  
**Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee**  
**April 23, 2015**  
**Memorial Library**

Members Present: Peter Berry, Tory Beyer, Jeff Clymer, Walter Foster, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Joe Will (Clerk)

Others Present: Roland Bartl (Acton Planning Director), Roland Bourdon (Finance Committee observer)

Walter, in the absence of Peter A and Amy, opened the meeting at 7:37 PM.

**I. Minutes of March 19, 2015**

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

**II. Town Meeting - observations, follow-up**

- Congrats to Peter A for his fine presentation at Town Meeting (TM). There were no “runs” at any of the projects. In fact, there were no objections, no comments, nothing.
- There was a table “out front” on the CPA projects. It included (thanks to Roland Bourdon) a tri-fold flyer for the public. There was also an Acton Conservation Trust table.
- Ann Chang’s move to have the Brookside warrant article first on the second night came from (the owners of the Brookside shops by way of) the Planning Board. Jeff didn’t think that article would take as much time as it did.
- Walter thought that we lost people at TM being as late as we were the second night. He feels that since a CPA article is a town appropriation article, the CPA items should be dealt with on the first night with other Town appropriations, ergo immediately after the Town budget and before the School budget. That also would allow the CPA items to be heard by those who attend principally to support the School budget (and leave after its vote) so that they would learn what’s going on with CPA funds.
- As it was, there were 300-some people at the second night. It appeared that 20-30 left after the Brookside vote and over 50 people left after the Pay-as-You-Throw vote. A lot of people had been called to come to support that latter vote.
- The small crowd the first night (compared to the second night) was surprising, as was the early adjournment the first night.
- Regarding the water chestnut removal, folks are glad to hear that poison is not the method.
- With such a calm audience, it was suggested that we should have gone for the 1.5 percent surcharge increase this year. Tarra Friedrichs, TM member, was all for doubling the CPA assessment.

**III. 2015 Project award letters – review drafts, finalize & vote to issue**

- Roland Bartl presented the draft award letters with Peter A’s input already included. The CPC reviewed each letter and made suggestions. Roland incorporated suggestions as appropriate. The CPC moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve each

letter as amended. Most of the amendments were “universal” re items common to all the letters.

- Roland noted that there is no Open-Space award letter as the open-space set-aside is not a project.

#### **IV. Summer schedule**

- Peter B (later in the meeting) recommended that we hold onto the 06/11 meeting date to get the doubling-of-the-surcharge-increase process underway. Other summer/September meeting dates we will keep are 08/13 (election of officers and review of a draft of the “2016 Community Preservation Plan”), 09/10 (for public hearing on the Plan), and 09/24.
- Roland asks Committee members to consult with their constituencies on the Plan and submit Plan updates in time to allow for their inclusion in the 08/13 Plan draft.

#### **V. Administrative updates**

- Peter A conveys his appreciation of the Committee’s work.
- Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT) project update (per Roland): The 75% plans for the ARRT were submitted last week. They are pretty much the final plans. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will host a public information meeting in Acton Town Hall on Thursday, 04/30, to get final public input. The Town has made contact with every property owner that needs to be contacted and everything sounds relatively cordial. In general, people want more screening so there likely is need to increase the landscaping part of the budget. (Roland also shared that, for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Acton just signed a 110% agreement with the state, saying that the Town agrees to pay cost overruns that exceed 110% of budget. The State pays the first 10% overruns. Roland expects a project review meeting with the contractor in May and hopes for groundbreaking in June.)
- In response to a query on whether the CPC can target funds for a particular use, say 50% for Open Space, Roland confirmed that CPC can provide such a warrant article for Town Meeting vote. (The CPC can change project application procedures also.)
- Regarding a process for reexamining the CPA surcharge: The CPC would need to present it as a Board of Selectmen agenda item. One result of this would be to get a “sense of the Board” per its support of a 3% surcharge. Peter B recommended that we use the 6/11 meeting to get the process underway. (See Item IV above.) In the meantime, each of us should get a sense of the feelings of their constituency on a surcharge increase.
- Peter B noted that at present there is no state budget item for the CPA for 2016.

9:06 PM — It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.