

MINUTES

TOWN OF ACTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC)

January 17, 2019

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 486 MAIN STREET, ACTON

Members Present: Ray Yacouby (Chair), Dean Charter (Clerk), Walter Foster, Caroline Kilpatrick, Steve Trimble, Bill Alesbury, Nancy Kolb, Tori Beyer, Amy Greene

Others Present: Robert Hummel (Planning), Kathy Fochtman (Recreation), Melissa Rier (Recreation), Karen Sonner, Roland Bourdon (Finance Committee), Joe Will (Recreation Commission), Bettina Abe (Natural Resources), Approximately 18 members of the general public in the audience.

Yacouby opened the meeting at 7:30 PM

- I. Citizens' Concerns: None
- II. Review Prior Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept minutes by Foster, seconded by Trimble, approved unanimously

III. Project Hearings and Review

7:40 Jones Field: Melissa Rier and Karen Sonner presented request for \$269,000 from CPC for renovation of Jones Field Playground. Leverage is 11K from donations and 30K from an adjacent developer. Present condition of equipment from 25 years ago is very poor and unsafe. Total cost is \$310,000 including surfacing and parking. Construction would begin in Spring, 2020, completion in July, 2020. Parking along Martin Street and Stow Street would be realigned from parallel to nose in. Some grading materials will need to be brought in. This is to be a two-phase project with the playground equipment being phase one, and eventually beach volleyball courts and other playing surfaces would be added in Phase 2; no funds requested for that phase at this time. Charter asked about phasing and suggested that if any town resources are to be used a commitment in writing from the Town Manager would be helpful. Alesbury questioned past maintenance. Rier stated that most of the problem revolved around the extreme age of the equipment. Kilpatrick and Alesbury questioned costs and it was stated that equipment was on state bid list, but that the assembly would need to be bid out, only have estimates now. Yacouby noted that this was a repurposing of the field from formerly a baseball field. Foster questioned how this project fits into overall plan for renovation of other playgrounds. Rier stated that Gardner would be next. Greene questioned about work in floodplain and permitting problems, statement from Rier was that no issues with permitting were expected. Joe Will in audience asked about dog policy and if beach volleyball courts (phase 2) would replace the ones at NARA, and asked about fencing of playground. Only follow up would be commitment from Town Manager about providing in house labor.

8:00 Acton Arboretum ADA Compliant Entrance: Bettina Abe presented along with Kathy Fochtman and Kathy Hatfield. Problems with existing access and stone dust surfacing (not ADA accessible). Possible use of pavers for trails, plus footbridge, accessible picnic tables, Bridge would probably be built by Fred's Construction due to past low costs and prior projects. New total cost is 60K. Foster questioned timeline of Natural Resources and Recreation projects. Abe stated that it would be done by the fall. This is last piece of the access and accessibility entrance project. Charter asked if Kennedy Landscape should be asked to provide his services for free in light of the agreement he has with the town to provide materials and labor in lieu of rent for his continued use of the newly town owned former "Kennedy Landscape" site. Abe will investigate with Selby. Beyer suggested bigger is better when it comes to width of access footbridge, should be more than 7 feet.

8:20 Acton Arboretum China Trail and Garden Planting: Abe presented the project Grant request is for \$5000, total project cost is \$16,000. Request would be used for plantings. The design has been developed with a landscape architect of Chinese ancestry, and the project is supported by various Chinese social organizations. This project is in keeping with a long history of plant explorers from America bringing back plants from China and incorporating them in our landscape. No invasive plants will be used, and many existing invasives are being removed. Small wooden amenity footbridge is presently under construction, permits are in hand. This is truly a multicultural project.

- IV. Administrative Updates: Fochtman updated committee on skate park. Plan now is to go to bid in the late winter, construction in June through August, 2019. Sports pavilion at NARA is close to being started. Picnic Pavilion restroom project is in engineering for septic system. Hummel noted that 53 River Street project has been revised, more to come. Foster updated committee on suggested project purchasing land at Central and Pearl.

V. Upcoming Hearings

01/24	Acton Town Hall room 204
	7:40 Asa Parlin House
	8:00 Window Preservation Project – Iron Work Farm
	8:20 53 River Street Historic Park
01/31	Acton Town Hall room 204
	Project deliberations

Foster moved to adjourn, seconded by Trimble to adjourn at 8:44, approved unanimously.

Next meeting, Thursday, January 24, 2019, 7:30 PM, Acton Town Hall.