

TOWN OF ACTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC) VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2021

7:30 PM

MEETING HELD BY ZOOM TELECONFERENCE AND AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Note: The Town of Acton in response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Acton Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread. The Town Hall is closed to the public.

Present: Mr. Ray Yacoub (Chair), Mr. Steve Trimble (Clerk), Mr. William Alesbury, Mr. Dean Charter, Mr. Walter Foster, Ms. Carolyn Kilpatrick, Ms. Nancy Kolb, Ms. Alissa Nicol (Associate)

Absent: Ms. Victoria Beyer

Others Present: Ms. Kristen Guichard, Mr. Joe Will, Mr. David Martin, Mr. Jim Colman, Mr. Matt Post, Mr. Lou York, Selby, Ms. Anne Forbes, Ms. Bettina Abe, Ms. Carol Domblreski, Ms. Christa Collins, Mr. Hart Millet, Ms. Heidi Porten, Ms. Jody Harris, Mr. Joe Cooney, Mr. Patrick Hearn, Mr. Paul Simeone, Ms. Sima Maitland, Mr. Terrence Maitland, Mr. Tom Tidman. Remaining attendees did not sign into the meeting with their full name.

Mr. Yacoub (Chair) opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. The Chair read the notice regarding virtual meetings and how the public could access and participate in the meeting. All votes will be by roll call.

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I. Regular Business

1. Citizens' Concerns (7:34 PM - 7:35 PM)

Mr. Yacoub requested from Ms. Guichard if there were any attendees with citizens' concerns outside of the planned project overviews. Ms. Guichard responded no.

2. Review Meeting Minutes (7:35 PM – 7:40 PM)

- a. Mr. Yacoub requested a motion to approve the February 9, 2021 CPC Minutes.
- b. Ms. Kilpatrick moved to approve the minutes for February 9, 2021 seconded by Mr. Foster.
- c. Committee Disposition: "Ayes" Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Alesbury, Ms. Kolb, Mr. Charter, Ms. Nicol, Mr. Foster, Mr. Yacoub, Mr. Trimble.
- d. Motion approved unanimously to accept the February 9, 2021 Minutes as amended as final.

3. Administrative Updates & Scheduling (8:44 PM – 9:34 PM; agenda item handled out of stated sequence)

- a. Mr. Yacoub noted we would go into the deliberation stage of the effort now with all applications presented.
- b. Mr. Yacoub asked Ms. Guichard when we would have the input excel for Committee. Ms. Guichard noted that on 03/9 we would have a plenary review and on 03/23 the Excel would be reviewed with the Committee member's initial allocations.
- c. Mr. Alesbury asked when the process must complete. It was noted the warrant article is due May 28th per Ms. Nicol suggesting an early May deadline. Mr. Alesbury recommended discussion of the noncontroversial projects to focus on the projects requiring greater deliberation.

- d. Ms. Nicol asked if attendees could see the presentations as a participant could not view the presentation. It was stated there are no known display issues for attendees of the presentations and it may be a technical issue of the participant. Ms. Guichard noted that all project documents are located on the town website. Mr. Yacoubi clarified that that individual member's allocations are not posted to the website.
- e. Mr. Foster noted a few observations in the Zoom meetings. 1) When participants attend, they should put their full name in Zoom. 2) If someone is presenting, they should be visible in Zoom. 3) The presenter's and Committee must be mindful of the presentation timing (e.g. Dog Park and Open Space). Some projects needing more time were given time. 4) There should be no limit on public comment. Mr. Yacoubi requested this be taken up at the next meeting as an agenda item.
- f. Ms. Nicol requested the summary of project document amounts be updated with the revisions.
- g. Mr. Yacoubi requested a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Foster seconded by Mr. Alesbury.
- h. **Committee Disposition:** "Ayes" Mr. Yacoubi, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Alesbury, Ms. Kolb, Mr. Charter, Ms. Nicol, Mr. Foster, Mr. Trimble.
- i. Motion to adjourn the February 23, 2021 meeting approved unanimously.

II. New/Special Business

Project Hearings

- 1. **7:40PM – 53 River Street Historic Park (7:37 PM – 8:13; presented by Mr. Lou York, Mr. Matthew Selby)**
 - a. Mr. Lou York reviewed the presentation providing the project timeline since 2016. The request is for \$100k covering final design, historic preservation and permitting. This presentation included timeline, funding sources, photos and objectives of the dam site and project.
 - b. Mr. Yacoubi inquired about the November 2020 deadline. Currently, there is no penalty and the governing body is fine with the progress to date and seeks updates on the towns.
 - c. Ms. Kilpatrick asked how long the work would take and about the governing body. Mr. Selby noted it was a MA based concern. Work can start this year.
 - d. Mr. Charter asked about any delays from the winter snow on the archeological survey. Mr. Selby received comments with permit and noted progress would be underway by April. Mr. Selby noted that Mr. David Martin conferred with town counsel who indicated the money this year must be recreational unless specific historical artifacts noted. This year's grant would have to come from recreation and next year the historic park might factor in the overall work.
 - e. Ms. Nicol asked if due to CPA funds whether that changes the requested amount or does this amount fall entirely for Recreation. That is correct the amount stands and is all for Recreation.
 - f. Mr. Foster stated this completes the dam portion and there will be no further dam removal ask. Future requests would be for historic and recreation dependent on grant requests. He also stated this is all recreation based on David Martin's discussion with town counsel and the presentation does not reflect that. As it would take rework for 53 River to categorize any monies as historic the project request should be updated to state it is recreation only.
 - g. Mr. Yacoubi requested the application be updated to reflect recreation.
 - h. Mr. Alesbury noted \$400k likely coming next year for 53 Reiver Street.

2. **8:03 PM – Open Space Acquisition/Protection Set-Aside Funds (8:03 PM – 8:38 PM; presented by Mr. Magee)**
 - a. Mr. Magee presented the application and presentation. Refer to materials for details. \$400k represents ~25% of the 2021 CPA funding for the Town.
 - b. Mr. Magee noted that Stonefield Farm will come in under a separate effort.
 - c. Mr. Charter and Ms. Kilpatrick noted support. Ms. Nicol thanked Mr. Magee for the presentation noting the benefits to the community of open space. Mr. Foster thanked Mr. Magee and asked about the Stonefield Farm focus. The acquisition is a conservation restriction of about \$1.2m for land protection. It will be a joint application with the Agriculture Commission.
3. **8:20 PM – 5% Administrative Support (8:38 PM – 8:44 PM; presented by Ms. Guichard)**
 - a. The CPA allows for 5% of annual monies for administrative support of the work.
 - b. Mr. Yacoubi acknowledged town staff's great assistance. Mr. Trimble, Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Charter, Ms. Nicol, and Mr. Foster concurred.

Next Scheduled Meeting(s):

1. March 09, 2021
2. March 23, 2021

Items used at the meeting:

1. 5% Administrative Support Application
2. 53 River Street Historic Park Presentation & application
3. Open Space Acquisition/Protection Set-Aside Funds
4. CPC Agenda 2021-02-23.pdf
5. Draft CPC Minutes 02 09 21.pdf

Additional materials can be found here: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-13026>

For more information about Community Preservation Committee contact
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