

Minutes for CPC Meeting of 5/19/05, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Library Meeting Room

Attending:

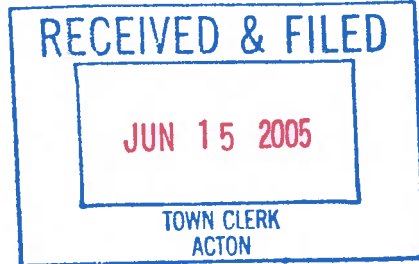
Bob Coan, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Catherine Coleman, Nancy Tavernier, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Matt Lundberg, Andy Magee, Roland Bartl

Absent:

Peter Berry, Walter Foster, Stacy Rogers

Audience:

Sue Kennedy



1. Approval of Minutes from 5/5/05

The minutes of 5/5/05 were approved as amended.

2. Discussion re: Next Steps

It was asked how the unused funds (\$59,800) from the Morrison Farm Master Plan project revert to the CPA General Fund.

The CPC would realize that the funds were not used, put them back in the General Fund and notify Town Meeting. The funds would become part of the unencumbered fund. If the funds were not touched in 3 years, they would revert to the original funding source.

Election of Officers - June 23

The Committee may volunteer for officer positions.

- Nancy Tavernier told Roland that she is interested in renewing her position as Associate Member.

Roland observed that the ACHC and HDC aren't officially represented on the committee.

It was commented that the Associate Member positions are for one year and that it is standard for the BoS to extend the term unless they hear otherwise.

It was commented that the committee wants to reinforce with Walter Foster that it wants Nancy to continue on.

Membership

It is believed that 5 people have applied for the Associate Member position and that it is possible that at the next Selectmen's meeting, 5/23, that someone may be appointed.

CPA Plan - FY 2007

Roland presented the Committee with an edited draft plan which the committee reviewed.

Under Guidelines for Submission it was clarified that applications should be delivered to the Planning Dept., not by email.

Under Application Instructions it's reiterated that the 15 copies should be submitted to the Planning Dept. by 11/14, Monday at 5 pm.

It was agreed to add "To Live in Acton" to the list of planning documents that are recommended reading for applicants (p 3)

The CP Plan section on Community Housing was updated. It was agreed to add "To Live in Acton" as an additional resource containing further discussion of community housing.

- Once the draft is completed in June, it was agreed to post a public notice that drafts of the CP Plan are available for comment. (The draft will be posted on the town website).

- At the 9/8 CPC meeting the committee will ascertain the needs, possibilities and resources of the town re: CP possibilities and resources as well as final comments on the Draft.

- The final CP Plan will be out on 9/22.

- It was agreed to bring in all the CP constituencies every three years; the Committee will do so next year. These meetings will be advertised twice, two weeks in advance of the meeting in the local newspaper.

It was commented that at last year's assessment of needs, etc. that some people came to tell the CPC how to spend the funds. For example, it was recommended to purchase small open spaces in villages as they are relevant for protecting open space, etc..

It was agreed to review the minutes of last year's Public Forum of 9/23 and to incorporate appropriate comments.

6/9: Bring comments from Open Space and Recreation constituencies on the Open Space and Recreation Section.

6/23: the Committee will agree on a draft of the CP Plan which they like.

Updates on Project completion

Bob Coan agreed to check on the Historical Signs project. Tom Peterman and Michaela Moran are in charge of the sign project. Peter Grover is working on the Cultural Resource List project. These projects are underway.

Other:

Discussion of what happens to set aside funds after 3 years.

- Roland suggested adding to p 25 of the CP Plan (table of project proposals and committee funding recommendations) a note that the open space set aside is cumulative until action at Town Meeting is taken.

- The committee also agreed to include the whole article describing the current appropriation.

Roland agreed to incorporate all changes and send out a clean copy.

3. New Business:

Future of Transfer Station Land

Susan presented the following information to the Committee:

Changes in use had been proposed for the 16 acre municipally owned transfer station land which is currently zoned Residential. Commercial use had been discussed and to a lesser degree, that of an open space/recreation use. As an open space/recreation use may well involve appropriating CPA funding, the committee agreed to discuss the land from those perspectives.

It was speculated that the transfer station land may have fallen through the cracks at the time the OSRP was written because only recently landfills have begun to be re-used for open space and recreation; the uncertainty around the status of the cap may also have played a role.

Changing the landfill's use to open space/recreation satisfies three goals in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

- 1) Preserve the remaining elements of Acton's rural character; the landfill abuts state owned agricultural fields.
- 2) Environmental protection; building on the site creates environmental risk as many piles to support the structure must be driven deep into the landfill.
- 3) Improve recreational opportunities

The landfill is primarily grassland connecting up with at least 6 town and state owned open space parcels which enhances its value as wildlife habitat.

There was some debate as to if the landfill may need to be recapped one day though the landfill is listed as capped on the DEP website. There could be a problem with pollution issues. One can't continue to pollute if the standard becomes more stringent. That would necessitate DEP to order recapping.

Re-use of the landfill site continues to be studied.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan Mitchell-Hardt