

Minutes
Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee
October 09, 2014
Acton Memorial Library

Members Present: Peter Ashton (Chair), Peter Berry, Tory Beyer, Jeff Clymer, Walter Foster, Amy Green (Vice Chair), Ken Sghia-Hughes, Joe Will (Clerk)

Others Present: Kristen Guichard (Acton Assistant Planner), Roland Bourdon (Finance Committee observer)

Peter A opened the meeting at 7:33 PM.

I. Minutes of September 11, 2014

Moved to approve, seconded, and voted 6-0* with Walter abstaining and Jeff not yet present.

- Later in the meeting, Ken pointed out that the Town of Acton website shows that his CPC appointment had expired this past June. Ken is appointed to the CPC by the Acton Housing Authority and it was unclear whether he has to be sworn in again. Ken will check with the Town Clerk. It was also pointed out that Jeff was not sworn in yet.

II. Review of projected revenues

- Per Kristen, we haven't heard back from the state regarding what the state match will be. In the CPA Plan for 2015, we estimated the CPA surcharge at \$833,733. Also, we are still waiting to hear from Brian McMullen (Acton's Assistant Finance Director) regarding the local match and interest.

- Current balances:

General Fund \$2454.53; Open Space set-aside \$1,658,571.87; Historic set-aside \$0.

- Can we assume we'll get close to last year's. We don't know yet.
- Peter A's rough guess on the total amount: \$1.1 or \$1.2 M.
- Roland pointed out that more towns have adopted the CPA, so the share of any additional state funding (last year \$25M) will be spread over more towns and therefore less per town.

III. Estimated returns from leftover project funds & account closures

Kristen reached out to projects that are nearly completed or for which money has been sitting for a while. Not all projects were contacted. The Committee reviewed a spreadsheet covering nine projects, plus it heard a couple of "last-minute" updates.

- School Street Twin Ball Fields: CPC funds were encumbered because the Town and State had been working on the lease. With a 10-year lease now in place, Tom Tidman and Cathy Fochtman are reaching out to local leagues to start a conversation again. One need at the fields is for water, but there is a moratorium for wells in the area, so a well for irrigation purposes has problems. Recreation will have a decision on School Street by December. If the scope of the project changes, Recreation would have to come back to the CPC and the funds would have to be re-appropriated.

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- Civil War Enhancement: Project sponsors are reaching out to someone to acquire a letter. They are trying to tie this up by the end of December.
- ADA 468 Main Street: This project (ADA elevator) is complete. Its balance can be recaptured.
It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously by qualified CPC voting members present (at least 6) to recapture the \$2823.13 balance.

IV. Project updates

- West Acton Baptist Church (WABC): Mass Historical sent back an agreement that will allow the WABC to combine the work on two projects to make it all easier.
- TJ O'Grady Skatepark: Information on current project appears on pp. 4 and 6 of "Project Status" spreadsheet with p. 6 status the most current.
- Granite Markers: Project is completed per the "Project Status" spreadsheet.
(Note: Subsequent to the meeting (on 10/24), Roland Bartl notified the CPC that "the project was not done, and that the money was recaptured to the CPA 'general' fund for later appropriations.")
- Wright Hill Purchase: Papers haven't passed yet. The Board of Selectmen has approved the easements and the easements will be voted on at November's special Town Meeting.
- Assabet River Rail Trail: May need new funding.
- Two possible new projects for NARA:
 - Safety improvements: Solar-powered lighting for parking lots, and barrier gates at the ends of the interior roadway, \$135K. Friends of Bruce Freeman Rail Trail might be able to pitch in for the lighting.
 - Modular restroom for the new Picnic Pavilion, \$105K.
- Two possible historical projects:
 - Restoration/installation of a sign or marker at the site of the Liberty Tree on Liberty Road. The original Liberty Tree was an elm that lasted until about 1925. In 1915, school children planted a Norway maple, the Peace Tree, at the site. When Apartheid ended in South Africa in 1994, school children planted a London planetree, the Freedom Tree. The current sign is unreadable. Bill Klauer of the Acton Historical Society is checking on this possible project with David Stone, owner of the Liberty Tree House, one of the oldest (1710) houses in Acton.
 - Fund research necessary to place Forest Cemetery in North Acton on National Register of Historic Places.

V. Administrative updates

None.

8:14 PM — It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously by qualified CPC voting members present (at least 6) to adjourn.

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Dates:

11/12/14 Special Town Meeting
11/13/14 Special Town Meeting continued if necessary
11/17/14 2015 CPA Project Submission Deadline
11/20/14 CPC Meeting (Library)
12/04/14 CPC Meeting (Library)
12/18/14 CPC Meeting (Library)