

Draft Minutes – Acton Finance Committee
March 7, 2006
Acton Town Hall – Room 204 7:30 PM

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk and with a quorum of members present, the Acton Finance Committee convened at 7:30 pm on March 7, 2006. The Agenda for this meeting is made by part the Minutes and is attached.

Members present for the meeting: Jonathan Chinitz, Pat Clifford, Pat Easterly, Bob Evans, Herman Kabakoff, Allen Nitschelm, Steve Noone, Rheta Roeber, and David Stone, Chair, and associate member Kent Sharp.

Members of the Public: MaryAnn Ashton, Jim Yarin, Charles Kadlec, Matt Lundgren, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Terra Friedrich, and Bill Schumacher.

Public Participation:

Mr. Jim Yarin of the Transportation Advisory Committee requested information and advice on how TAC might pursue a dedicated revenue stream for sidewalk construction. Various strategies were presented including establishing an enterprise fund; Mr. Yarin was advised that the management of staff time and projects should also be considered.

FY07 Budget

Habitat for Humanity

The Chair introduced Bill Schumacher from Habitat for Humanity who reviewed the article in the Town Meeting warrant regarding donation of town owned land on River Street for the construction of a single family affordable home. The Habitat model contemplates construction done with approximately \$100,000 in capital on donated land; services and labor are usually donated. The home would be available to a family earning approximately 50% of the area median income. In response to Mr. Kabakoff he said that a sewer betterment would be paid. He said the Habitat group had not met with the neighbors. In response to Mr. Nitschelm, Schumacher said that it would take about 6 – 9 months to build the project. Ms Clifford asked Mr. Schumacher to determine whether a duplex could be built on the parcel under the present zoning.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Noone introduced Matt Lundberg and Susan Mitchell-Hardt, chair and co-chair of the CPC, who reviewed the recommendations for projects for the current round of funding. Mr. Lundberg confirmed that the required percentages for housing, recreation, and historic preservation had all been met or exceeded; \$400,000 has been designated for Open Space set aside, and 5% of the fund will be used for administrative charges made by the Town. In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Lundberg said that as a

policy the CPC had decided not to appropriate on projects that come in without a design. He also said that the committee likes to see projects that leverage money, but that they do not require it. He recapped the individual projects listed in the Warrant and said that all requests had been funded this year.

The chair opened discussion of the listed projects. Mr. Evans raised objections to the stone chamber and the Fitzgerald piano, Ms. Roeber raised concerns about the playground at McCarthy Village, Mr. Kabakoff questioned the Leary Field proposal.

Mr. Kabakoff, seconded by Mr. Nitschelm, moved to recommend the list with the exception of the Leary Field path, the stone chamber, the Fitzgerald piano, and the playground at McCarthy Village. After discussion, Mr. Kabakoff withdrew his motion.

Mr. Stone then moved committee acceptance of the list with the exception of projects 2, 6, 10, and 12. Mr. Chinitz seconded the motion which was adopted.

Mr. Kabakoff moved not to recommend the Woodland Path for Leary Field because the Friends of Leary Field had indicated that the Town would not be asked for additional money. There was no second for the motion. Ms. Clifford moved approval of the funds for the Leary Field woodland path citing the need to clean up this final aspect of the field development and provide additional access from the west parking area. Mr. Chinitz seconded the motion, which was adopted with seven ayes, one no (Kabakoff), and one abstention (Roeber). Ms. Ashton, as a proponent of the Fitzgerald piano project, offered some additional background on the history and restoration of the piano. The Committee agreed to seek more information on the stone chamber, the piano and McCarthy Village playground before voting.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stone recognized Mr. Kadlec who distributed an executive summary of the Comprehensive Wastewater Plan and shared his views on the report and process by which it had been placed on the Town Meeting warrant. Following discussion, Mr. Stone said the report could be placed on the agenda for the March 15 meeting and that he would invite members of the CAC to present information. There is also a public meeting on the report on March 16th in Room 204.

Adjournment

Ms. Easterly moved adjournment at 10:00. Mr. Chinitz seconded the motion which was unanimously adopted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Clifford, Clerk