

Meeting Minutes
Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee
October 26, 2006
Town Hall Room 126

Attending: Tory Beyer, Catherine Coleman, Walter Foster, Andy Magee, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Ed Starzec, Nancy Tavernier

Chair Catherine Coleman opened the meeting at 7:35PM.

1. Approval of Minutes from 9/28

The minutes of the 9/28 meeting were approved with minor amendments.

2. “State of the Town” Meeting

All agreed it would be a good idea to prepare a brief piece for inclusion in the “State of the Town” meeting booklet. Unfortunately, the booklet has already gone to press so no action will be taken.

3. Process for Reapplication: Historical Commission’s Historic Resource List

Tory Beyer indicated that it appears unlikely that the Historic Commission will select a consultant and start work on the Historic Resource List project before the three year deadline. It was noted that several other projects will be facing the three-year deadline as well, including the Assabet River Rail Trail, the Acton Housing Authority Family Housing Initiative, and the Morrison Farm Master Plan. Discussion followed as to what actions need to take place in order to extend the deadlines.

Walter Foster will work with Town Counsel to determine what the appropriate course of action is. The committee will contact the applicants in question, providing instructions as to how to proceed including a deadline. It was noted that next year’s Community Preservation Plan should include a policy statement addressing this issue. Tory indicated that with respect to the Historic Resource List project, she will instruct the applicant to write a letter to the committee by November 13th.

4. Procedure for Project “Close Outs”

Discussion was deferred to a future meeting when Peter Berry is present.

5. Board of Selectmen Oversight Meeting

Walter has asked Don Johnson to prepare a schedule for oversight meetings for all town committees with the request that the CPC oversight meeting be scheduled as soon as possible.

6. FY07 Community Preservation State Matching Grants

Roland Bartl distributed a letter from the Department of Revenue indicating state matching funds in the amount of \$652,082.00. Adding the local funds and available undedicated reserve, the anticipated total available for appropriation this round is

\$1,390,286.12.

7. New Business

Susan Mitchell-Hardt briefed the committee on the recent request for dues from the Community Preservation Coalition. The coalition has been operating off of a state grant which is running out and is now moving towards a dues-based model. Annual dues will likely be between \$1,000 and \$2,000. The coalition expects that these dues would be paid out of a town's 5% administrative allocation. Some concerns were raised regarding this arrangement. No decision was made as to how to proceed.

Andy mentioned that the Acton Conservation Trust and the town have been working on a "modest but not insignificant" open space purchase and would be looking for CPC funding. This proposal may not be finalized by our November 14 deadline. Roland suggested filing a letter with the CPC by the deadline to hold a place for the application.

Nancy Tavernier passed around the application recently filed with the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Willow Central 40B project. The first meeting with the ZBA went very well and a decision could be ready as soon as November 15th.

The next CPC meeting will be held November 16th. Applications will be available for pick-up at Town Hall on Tuesday, November 14th.

Ken Sghia-Hughes mentioned that the Acton Housing Authority may submit an application for housing-related capital expenses.

Roland Bartl noted that the Assabet River Rail Trail project had received some grant funding to study alternative approaches to accommodating the trail on the South Acton Main Street bridge.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45PM.