

Meeting Minutes
Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee
February 8, 2007
Acton Public Library

Attending: Jon Benson, Peter Berry, Tory Beyer, Catherine Coleman, Walter Foster, Matt Lundberg, Andy Magee, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Ed Starzec, Nancy Tavernier

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

1. Approval of Minutes from 1/25/07

The minutes of the 1/25/07 meeting were approved with amendments.

2. Administrative Support

The question was asked is there really a full time staff person funded by the CPC administrative fee. Roland Bartl responded that CPC-related work is done by a number of people in different departments so this position is effectively a placeholder.

3. Community Preservation Coalition Membership

The Community Preservation Coalition has sent out a request for \$2,500 in dues from Acton as the grant that has funded its operations until now is expiring. The Coalition has a legal opinion that dues could be funded by CPA funds. Committee members noted several benefits of membership, including potential cost savings related to reduced legal fees. Walter Foster expressed support but noted we should be active participants and be wary of the Coalition lobbying against Acton interests. Peter Berry will get additional information for the next meeting.

4. “Returned” Funds

There was some discussion of “returned” unexpended funds. A motion was made to accept the amount of \$71,984.64 in recaptured funds per Roland’s spreadsheet, out of which \$4,129.64 would be placed in a set aside for historic preservation projects. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion re: Allocation of Funds

The committee decided to first address the question of how to categorize the East Acton Village Green project. The consensus was that the project should be considered half historic preservation and half recreation.

The status of the River Street project was discussed next. The landowner’s asking price of \$2.2 million is far in excess of the \$750,000 in the application. Walter Foster explained that the project was not being formally withdrawn. The consensus was no funding for this year but perhaps next year as the project evolves.

Each committee member reviewed his or her recommended funding levels for each project and for the most part, consensus was quickly reached to fully fund a majority of the projects. Discussion focused on a few of the projects:

- **AHA Capital Fund**

It was suggested to add \$14,000 in returned unexpended affordable housing funds from previous years to this year's AHA Capital Fund request (for a total of \$64,000). The committee was in general agreement.

- **ACHC Community Housing Program Fund**

In light of the multiple withdrawn applications for this year's funding cycle, it was suggested that additional funding could be allocated to the ACHC Community Housing Program Fund beyond the \$100,000 requested in the application. The consensus amount was \$170,000.

- **Athletic Field Lighting**

Discussion focused on whether to fund the project for its requested \$150,000 or for additional funds which would allow for procurement of a superior product and maintenance agreement. Consensus amount was \$175,000.

- **Archaeological Survey**

There was some discussion of not fully funding the project in order to make a better case for grant funding. Consensus was to fully fund the project.

- **Town Hall Ceiling**

Andy Magee asked that the committee consider funding the Town Hall ceiling repairs given that they were completed for a relatively small amount of money. There was some discussion as to the feasibility of funding a completed project. It was decided to consult Town Counsel and report back next meeting.

6. Old Business

- **Appointments.** It was noted that the terms for Peter Berry, Matt Lundberg, and Ed Starzec are expiring.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM. Next meeting March 1st.