

Meeting Minutes

Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee

September 13, 2007
Acton Memorial Library

Attending: Jon Benson, Tori Beyer, Walter Foster, Andy Magee, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Corrina Roman-Kreuze, Ron Schlegel, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Ed Starzec and Nancy Tavernier.

Ken Sghia-Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m..

Annual Public Information Hearing. The CP Application Lifecycle presentation was made by Ken to approximately ten attendees. There were several questions from participants. Anne Forbes noted an error in the CPC Plan for 2008. All CPC approved projects must be started within three years from the date of Town Meeting's approval of the project. The project does not have to be completed within that three year time frame.

Previews to two potential CPA applications were made. Linda McElroy presented her idea of "A Trail Through Time." The project would involve the restoration of stone sites within the conservation land in North Acton. The cluster of sites would include structures from the Native American, pre-Colonial, Colonial and Industrial time periods. The sites would entail varying degrees of restoration or enhancement. Some access trails would need to be created to link the existing trails to the individual sites. Linda anticipates the project would be attempted in stages. The likely first project application will be for the restoration of Wheeler Farm, a dry cattle farm from the 1800's.

The second preview was made by Glenn Berger, the owner of Exchange Hall, and his ten year effort to bring back the historic building. This would be the first application seeking CPC funding for a private, for profit, project. (It was noted that two previous awards for Jones Tavern were made to a non-profit organization.) Andy Magee and Walter Foster commented that while privately owned and for profit the restoration of an historic building could be for the greater public good and CPC participation would be appropriate. Mr. Berger commented an idea he had was to make space in the building available for use by town committee meetings. Nancy Tavernier suggested, with political considerations in mind, Mr. Berger might consider one or two "well-defined" projects within the restoration for which to seek CPC funding.

Approval of Minutes. The Minutes of the August 23, 2007 meeting were approved as amended.

Campus Athletic Field Lighting Project. Mike Coppolino informed the committee that the lighting project is substantially complete, with the netting work still outstanding. The lights have been on since early August and townspeople and teams have been making good use of the tennis courts and fields. We are all invited to the dedication ceremony scheduled for Sunday evening, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Walter Foster reported that the certification required by the CPC award letter (that the lights were designed and installed in compliance with the technical specifications of the Acton Zoning

By-Law) as a condition for payment to the installer was expected to be completed within the next few days.

New Members. Ron Schlegel of the Recreation Commission was welcomed as a new member of the Committee. Ken has followed up with the three townspeople who expressed interest in the open Associate position but none has made the necessary application to the VCC.

Cory Atkins Letter. Roland Bartl received a letter from State Representative Cory Atkins seeking Acton's response to a July 27 Boston Globe Op-Ed piece by two Kennedy School professors. The piece was sharply critical of the Community Preservation Act in that it effectively taxes poor communities to the benefit of the wealthier communities. There was uniform support for Ms. Atkins' request and Walter will draft a letter in response to the contentions made in the Op-Ed piece.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Jon Benson