

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee

September 25, 2008
Acton Memorial Library

Attending: Roland Bourdon, Nancy Tavernier, Corrina Roman-Kreuze, Janet Adachi, Peter Berry, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Jon Benson, Tory Beyer, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ron Schlegel, Kristin Alexander (Assistant Town Planner) and Pat Clifford (Fin Com Observer)
Guests: Frank Joyner, Library Trustee, Bettina Abe, Friends of Acton Arboretum.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Sghia-Hughes at 7:35PM.

Approval of the minutes of 9/16/08 was postponed to the next meeting to allow more time for review.

I. Workshop – The CPC Application Process

Ken presented the Community Preservation Lifecycle slideshow to inform potential applicants.

Questions from the audience: Frank Joyner explained he was involved in the Library Civil War project and is proposing to do some additional work, things that were included in the original project but cut at the end due to cost overruns. The major missing piece is the audio stations that will include readings from letters and other material to enhance the educational aspect of the project. The projected cost would be less than \$15,000 including contingencies. Frank mentioned that other organizations also had provided supplementary funds and the exhibit designer had written off a substantial portion of the cost of the design work, which allowed the project to be displayed in its current configuration.

Bettina Abe explained that two boardwalks in the Arboretum are in bad shape and need to be rebuilt; the boardwalks pass through the wild flower garden and the bog and are approximately 25-35 yards long. The Friends of the Arboretum would also like to construct laminated education boards in those locations to show what the wildflowers species are and also explain the unique bog. Bettina did not have a cost estimate. Ken explained that CPA funds cannot be used to rehabilitate existing recreation areas that were not acquired or created by CPA funds, which is what replacement of the boardwalks would involve; Ken noted that the limitation is under review in a current SJC case and a decision in that case might help to determine whether boardwalk replacement would be eligible for CPA funding. This is the second potential request for such an improvement on Town-owned land.

No other proposals were suggested.

II. Special Town Meeting October 2

Ken will introduce article #2, the proposed land purchase on Piper Lane and explain the CPC process that led to the placement on the warrant. Andy Magee will give the key presentation on the request.

The BOS, FinCom, and Planning Board have all voted to recommend the purchase. There was no further update on the negotiations, which will be completed after the Special Town Meeting.

All members are requested to attend the STM at 7PM on Oct. 2 at the ABRHS upper gym.

As part of the land purchase discussion, Susan mentioned a possible request for CPA funds to establish a "due diligence" fund under the control of either the Town or the Acton Conservation Trust. These funds could be used for due diligence expenses when land purchase opportunities arise, for example, surveys, appraisals, legal expenses, etc. The amount needed is about \$15,000. Susan was encouraged to put together a request.

III. Letter of support to MPO for AART Rail Trail

The draft letter of support was approved as revised.

IV. Other business and announcements

Ken announced the CPA Coalition conference in November was open to all. Jon Benson plans to attend.

The Stone Chamber celebration will be held Sunday at 1PM, weather permitting.

Next Regular Meetings October 16 and 30.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Tavernier, Associate member