

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee

November 13, 2008
Acton Memorial Library

Attending: Jon Benson, Nancy Tavernier, Roland Bourdon, Janet Adachi, Tory Beyer, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Ron Schlegel, Kristin Alexander (Assistant Town Planner) and Pat Clifford (Fin Com Observer).

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Sghia-Hughes at 7:40 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes for 10/16/2008

Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting to allow more time for review and comment.

II. Review of 10/24/2008 Seideman v. City of Newton Decision

The Committee discussed the potential impact of the Seideman decision on the 2009 applications relating to the Parker Damon playground and the West Acton boardwalk, as well as the 2008 Nara Picnic Pavilion and Elm Street Playground projects approved for CPA funding at Town Meeting this past spring. Members discussed what action the Committee should take. Members agreed on the need to notify the playground and boardwalk applicants early if their projects are unlikely to qualify for funding. The Committee will request Town Counsel's quick review and recommendations on those two projects. Members decided to let the Town Manager determine the appropriate action respecting the two 2008 projects. See attached Seideman decision.

The Seideman decision has led to a proposal, currently pending in the State Legislature, to amend the CPA. The Committee will invite Senator-Elect Jamie Eldridge, Representative-Elect Jen Benson, and Representative Cory Atkins to speak to the Committee.

III. Accept and Review 2009 CPA Applications, Assignment of Project Liaisons, Scheduling of Project Review Meetings with Applicants

The Committee received 13 applications for 2009, has assigned members as project liaisons, and has set up a schedule for project review meetings with the applicants on December 11th and 18th and January 8th. The Committee's consideration of the Parker Damon playground and West Acton Boardwalk proposals, including the tentatively scheduled project review meetings for those projects, will hinge on the recommendations of Town Counsel as to their eligibility for CPA funding in the wake of the Seideman decision. See attached spreadsheet from Chairman Sghia-Hughes.

IV. Other Business

Chairman Sghia-Hughes reported on his conversation with Walter Foster about Exchange Hall, which owner Glen Berger recently has listed for sale. Mr. Berger told Walter that the real estate listing was a marketing tactic to generate interest in the building. Scaffolding is up and work is underway or has been completed on the shell, including chimney, roof, and cupola, with painting to occur next spring. Berger cannot get CPA funds unless he completes the project. It may be helpful for members to have copies of the award letter, so that they can be more certain of the terms under which Berger is to receive the funds. The Committee also discussed the possibility of Berger's losing the Historic District Commission authorization. Berger has invited the Historic District Commission, as well as Committee members, to tour the building on Friday, November 14th, 2:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, December 11th, when the Committee has scheduled project reviews for five of the 2009 proposals.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

-Janet Adachi