

Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee
Draft Minutes, August 9, 2012
Acton Memorial Library Meeting Room

Members present: Walter Foster (Chair), Tory Beyer, Roland Bourdon, Dave Clough, Amy Green, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ken Sghia-Hughes

Also Present: Steve Noone (Finance Committee), Roland Bartl (Planning Director), Kristen Guichard (Assistant Town Planner)

The meeting was opened at 7:35 by Chairman Foster. Walter welcomed our two new members, Amy Green (ConsCom), and Dave Clough (Board of Selectmen).

1. Minutes of June 14, 2012, were approved unanimously.

2. Officer Elections

The following slate was nominated and elected unanimously:

Roland Bourdon—Chair
Ken Sghia-Hughes—Vice-Chair
Amy Green—Clerk

Roland Bourdon presided over the rest of the meeting as the newly elected chair.

3. Recent Amendments to Ch. 44B—Update and Discussion

Roland Bartl updated the committee on the newly enacted changes to the CPA law. The committee discussed some of these changes. Highlights include:

- Recreation projects on lands not created by CPA money is now allowed
- The exemption from the tax for the first \$100,000 value of a property is now extended to business properties as well as residential properties.
- The purchase of software to support the administration of the CPA law is allowed.
- The definitions of “maintenance” and “rehabilitation” of a property have been cleaned up and they are now more clear. Also “support of community housing” is now better defined.
- Artificial turf fields are specifically disallowed for CPA funding.
- Changes are now retro-active to the date that each town adopted the Act. With regards to Leary Field, as long as we can show that CPA money was not used specifically for the artificial turf itself.
- Fees associated with deed restrictions and monitoring are explicitly allowed.
- Active recreation is now no longer excluded from being counted for part of the 10% required for Open Space each year.

4. 2013 Draft Plan—Finalize draft plan for publication/circulation

Roland Bartl reviewed new draft revisions to Acton’s CP Plan to update references to the CPA Law to reflect the newly enacted changes to the law. There are also some financial figures that need to be updated once we get final numbers from the Finance Department. Historic preservation updates sent by Tory were lost. Tory will re-send changes to the Planning Office for including in the CP draft plan.

5. Administrative Update

Steve Noone informed the committee that Herman Kabakoff will be the new liaison to the committee for the Finance Committee.

Nothing has happened with the Asa Parlin house so far.

Lower Fields are close to being complete.

Skatepark has not yet started.

The Sachem Way project is moving forward. Site work will begin later this month.

None of the historic preservation projects have started yet.

Trail Through Time had an update and requested to use funds for something not in the award letter. Susan will contact Linda McElroy to notify her to make a request at a committee meeting.

NARA Pavilion is not going to start. The Recreation Department has determined that they will resubmit the project for appropriation again next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Sghia-Hughes