

Minutes
Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee
August 13, 2015
Acton Memorial Library

Members Present: Peter Ashton (Chair), Peter Berry, Walter Foster, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Joe Will (Clerk)

Others Present:

Roland Bartl (Acton Planning Director), Robert Hummel (Acton Assistant Planner), Paula Goodwin (Acton Conservation Commission)

Peter A opened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

I. Minutes of June 11, 2015

Correction: Change “Next CPC meetings are July 16 and August 13” to: “Next CPC meeting is August 13.”

- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected.

II. Election of Officers

Peter is willing to be Chair for a second year.

- Peter was nominated, the nomination was seconded, there was no discussion, and Peter was voted Chair unanimously, save for Peter abstaining.

Joe is willing to be Clerk for a second year.

- Joe was nominated, the nomination was seconded, there was no discussion, and Joe was voted Clerk unanimously, save for Joe abstaining.

The position of Vice-Chair is being left open, as Paula Goodwin has indicated that she would be willing to be Vice-Chair. This would happen after Paula officially joins the Committee as its Conservation Commission representative, replacing Amy Green.

III. DRAFT 2016 Community Preservation Plan - discuss, edit, vote to release draft

- The Committee reviewed the Plan draft with Roland who made note of the Committee’s suggestions for change.
- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously for Roland to make the changes agreed upon and to then release the Plan for public comment.

Peter A is available by email and cell phone to assist Roland should Roland have any questions. Roland has already sent the September 10 Public Hearing advertisement to the newspaper. He suggests that if anyone at tonight’s meeting knows of any person contemplating CPA funding for a project, then we should encourage that party to come to the Public Hearing and speak briefly to the Committee about that project.

IV. CPA Study Committee - discussion

Peter B shared the following list of CPA Study Committee members confirmed so far by the Board of Selectmen (BoS):

- Peter Berry – Selectman
- Bill Klauer – Historical Commission

Roland Bourdon – Finance Committee
Ron Yacoby – Planning Board
Bridget Matz – Recreation Commission
Paula Goodwin – Conservation Commission
Corrina Roman-Kreuze – Acton Community Housing Corporation

Ken indicated that he would likely be the member from the Acton Housing Authority (to be confirmed by the Board of Selectmen). Walter indicated that he is applying to be an At-Large member. Roland says that one other person has applied to be an At-Large member, and there is one other application of someone looking to be a volunteer in general.

Peter will be trying to schedule some meetings for the CPA Study Committee after the Committee is completely identified. He also pointed out that any amendment to Acton's use of the CPA that the Study Committee recommends will require approval first by Town Meeting and then by Town election.

V. Administrative updates

- Peter A will send out his suggestions for a Committee “get together” shortly—after he confers with spouse.
- The Committee requests Roland to convey to the Town that, because interest rates continue to climb, the Town expeditiously completes any bonding that would include funds for the Wright Hill purchase.
- Roland says that “It’s a race to the finish line” on issues needing to be resolved in both Acton and Maynard on Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT) issues. But, it looks like everything will come together to meet the submittal and certification deadlines for September project advertising, even with the MBTA on the construction license for the Maple Street parking lot. The BoS also voted for acquiring 5 or 6 temporary easements (one donated) to facilitate trail construction. There is one major exception to the progress suggested above and it is the next agenda item.

VI. Discussion, Vote to Recommend use of CPA appropriation for Eminent Domain

Robert distributed a document prepared by Roland who requested that the Committee take a formal vote related to the document. The document authorizes use of CPA funds to enable the Town to take the ARRT easements needed at 20 Main Street in South Acton by eminent domain, as voted by the BoS two mornings ago. This is urgent as the Town has to prove to the state by 08/27 that it has control of all the land required to build the Rail Trail.

Following discussion, it was moved (Walter), seconded (Peter B), and voted unanimously that:

The CPC recommends the use of the 2015 CPA fund appropriation for the acquisition, by eminent domain or otherwise, of easements over 20 Main Street for purposes of the Assabet River Rail Trail as set forth in the vote document entitled “RECORD OF VOTE OF THE ACTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE, August 13, 2015”.

Each CPC member present signed the Record of Vote.

8:57 PM — It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.

Next Meeting:

09/10/15 Public Hearing; Adoption of the 2016 Community Preservation Plan.

DRAFT