

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
November 19, 2015
TOWN HALL

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Quorum/Attendance: Chairperson, Jeff Lucas, Jay Simmons, Ann Richard, Simone Bourgeois, Frank Rezendes, Terrence Meredith, Patricia Pacella and Cynthia McNaughten.

Absent: Jim Souza.

William Roth was also in attendance.

Mr. Lucas welcomed, newly appointed member, Simone Bourgeois.

Acceptance of Minutes: Frank Rezendes made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2015, as presented and was seconded by Patricia Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Frank Rezendes made a motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2015, with changes and was seconded by Patricia Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Lucas said James Souza was not noted on the attendance in the August 27, 2015, minutes.

Bills:
None

Mr. Roth noted the library project is underway so pay rec's will be coming in. There will be a meeting in December and January meeting. So if a bill needs to get paid, please make arrangements.

II. PUBLIC MEETING:

Handout and Discuss FY16 Applications received

Open Space – Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC):
Mattapoisett Valley Drinking Water Protection and Trails Project - \$80,000.00

Mr. Roth said he has the full application including the appraisal on this project if anyone wanted to review it. The Buzzards Bay Coalition is proposing a fee acquisition of 114 acres in the Mattapoisett River Valley in Mattapoisett. It is a rather large project. The overall total is \$669,000, project related cost are \$26,000 and are requesting \$80,000 from CPC. The proposed parking lot and trail construction on New Boston Road on the east side would be in one of 2 locations. Mr. Roth reviewed the funding they are requesting. The Board of Public Works would hold ownership because they are the Town's Water Commissioners. Mr. Roth said it is an approvable project under the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Mr. Roth mentioned that if the CPC were to move forward, that it be conditioned that Mattapoisett CPC needs contribute as well. We would get a parking lot, trails, and our/their drinking water and well-head protection. Mr. Roth said the BBC is also looking at other funding sources. Mr. Roth gave explanation on funding. (Discussion ensued.)

The Videographer entered and there is a brief recess at 6:56 p.m. so that the meeting could be taped for cable access TV.

Mr. Lucas informed that the meeting is now being recorded and going out live at 7 pm.

Mr. Roth reiterated the information under #1 above.

Mr. Lucas said recommendation made that a condition is Mattapoisett needs to be included in this.

Ms. Richard asked about the upkeep of the trails and would the Town be responsible for that.

Mr. Roth said he would forward that question to the BBC prior to them coming next month.

Community Housing:

Fairhaven Housing Authority – Dana Court - Boiler Replacement Project - \$50,000

Mr. Lucas said they are requesting \$50,000 to upgrade the 30-year boiler systems.

Mr. Simmons said this is the only location no upgrades have been done. The heating system is not efficient and they are only looking for a portion of the overall funding. Next meeting someone will be here to speak on the necessity of the project. They would like to upgrade before there is a failure. There are 50 residents.

Mr. Roth said they came in right at what has to be spent to meet the minimum 10% and CPC would be funding about 30% of the overall project.

Ms. Richard was asking about energy efficiency and said there are a lot of grants and is it something they can apply for. Mr. Simmons said the process is very difficult and they are trying to keep costs down by using energy efficient systems and the Housing Authority's Executive Director will be seeking state funds.

Mr. Roth said DHCD has minimum efficiency requirement. DHCD Housing Division has different pots of money to help fund with.

Planning & Economic Development Department - Housing Element Master Plan - \$25,000.00

Mr. Roth said the Town of Fairhaven's Master Plan is out of date. The Planning Board has a Master Plan Subcommittee and will be proposing an article to fund the cost having the plan done. It cannot be done in-house nor do they have the resources to do a Master Plan and depending on the various elements, the range is between \$90,000 - \$120,000. They are refining the scope of services. The Housing Element is one element required in the Master Plan. They will also apply for State money. Mr. Roth is trying to find a way to fund the Master Plan and reduce the cost to the general fund.

Mr. Lucas asked if this would go out to bid and Mr. Roth said it would and it is an 18 to 24-month project.

Recreation:

Bikeway Committee – Town Hall Bike Racks - \$1,000.00

Mr. Lucas said they are requesting bike racks.

Mr. Roth said the Bikeway Committee has done a lot of things, signage and safety improvements. The Bike Committee wants to put in a single hitching post type bike rack, 2 in front and one each side of Town Hall and the Historic Committee has approved the project subject to having the final say on style and location. The Bike Committee is in agreement.

Ms. McNaughten is a bike rider and said it has always been a problem and is in favor and feels placement needs to be carefully thought out.

Mr. Roth said the reason for the post is so they can be chained. (Discussion ensued.)

Ms. Bourgeois said the Historical Committee was very concerned about placement as well.

Cathy Delano (Town Resident) asked if they were talking about the grass strip next to street and there is a bicycle rack at the library and are there security cameras in front of Town Hall. Mr. Roth confirmed that they were talking about the grass strip and he answered no with regards to cameras at Town Hall.

Historic Preservation:

Board of Selectmen – Library Sidewalk – Williams & Walnut Street - \$175,000.00

Also Mr. Roth has distributed/mailed the 13-page document Ms. Delano provided. Mr. Roth said that he spoke with Mr. Osuch regarding the sidewalk project and he provided a detailed cost estimate, which was handed out.

Ms. Delano said there are only 2 pages of questions with the info provided to back it up.

Mr. Roth said the Library sidewalk project the Selectman have submitted is the next phase consisting of Walnut and William Street side of the library. The proposal is to do the same improvements that are currently ongoing at Townhall and on Center Street side of the Library. There will be a reduction in width of sidewalk. The granite curb on the roadway is in poor shape, and this includes the curb work that needs to be done as well. There is a cost estimate and Ms. Delano has submitted 13 pages. They are requesting \$175,000.

Ms. Richard asked if there was a different cost if the CPC funded it as one project or two. Mr. Roth said he did not have a cost estimate to split the project but would ask for one. However, it was his opinion that to do them separately would end up costing more.

Mr. Roth said there are 5 different bricks on Town Hall sidewalks.

Ms. Pacella said she is concerned with the issue of the width of the sidewalks that has been the topic of numerous discussions at Selectmen's meetings.

Mr. Roth said that Town Councils' opinion on this issue has been included with the application; however, there are also opposing opinion.

Ms. Delano said everything about the bricks negates what the attorney said in his letter. She feels his opinion was based on that the bricks were historic and they are making brick a priority. The one remaining true historic characteristic is the width. Ms. Delano said the CPC issues guidelines and they are based on Secretary of Interior standards. It is municipal sidewalk and does not have to adhere to those standards and felt that if that were the case, it wouldn't be before CPC for funding. Mr. Lucas noted if the Historic Commission accepts as a historical resource, it does not have to be old, just historic.

Ms. Delano said the width and herring bone pattern of the bricks are considered historical. Ms. Delano also noted on the cost estimate, Center Street is mentioned; Mr. Roth noted it was for the outer curbing.

Mr. Lucas said they would reserve all of it for the next meetings. (Discussion ensued.)

Mr. Benac (Town Resident) said Ms. Delano did a good job presenting it and he doesn't see why it has to be narrowed down and felt there was a reason for the width.

Fairhaven High School – North Elevation Restoration Project Ph. 2 - \$70,000.00

Mr. Roth said in 2004 they got funded, the scope got extended. They did not expend the funds that were approved. They are looking at a larger, more comprehensive project. The funds were carried over and they are now requesting this for this larger project.

Mr. Lucas read from document re: project for restoring all windows on all elevations.

Mr. Roth said they did not spend 2014 funds and are asking for an additional \$70,000. Any money from any project gets returned. (Discussion ensued.)

Library Exterior Restoration Project Ph. 3

Mr. Roth said that if you look at what they are doing now, they want to move around and do the next section of building. This is just the next phase and then one more to complete it. (Discussion ensued.)

Library – Fairhaven Start Newspaper Digitizing Project - \$30,707.00

Mr. Roth noted the application was pretty self-explanatory.

Ms. McNaughten feels it is not preservation and feels the library could replace the current microfilm reader, which is broken.

Ms. Richard felt that they do want digital records and why spend funds on a reader they don't want. Ms. Richard feels digitizing is a much better project.

Mr. Meredith felt the library would have to submit an addendum for the machine.

Mr. Lucas thought there are monthly fees and needs clarification on some issues, like monthly fees, software updates, etc.

Ms. Richard feels it is a good project for the public for the future. She felt what they are asking for does not equal \$30,000 and would like clarification and number breakdown.

Fairhaven Historical Commission – Academy Building – Exterior Siding Project - \$35,000.00

Mr. Lucas said there is a big difference in price and feels the discrepancies are huge. He would like to see their request. Mr. Roth said the specs are in the application. They want to go back to cedar shingles.

Ms. Richard asked if they just painted it. Mr. Roth said that it was painted a few years ago.

III. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Roth has questions he will forward to the Buzzards Bay Coalition about upkeep of trails. Can they fund microfilm machine and the hosting fees, is it fundable?

Ms. Bourgeois suggested a library card that covers a certain grouping, like to be able to go to the New Bedford Library.

Ms. Richard wanted to report Livsey Park Skate Park renovation is almost finished. The Town has been very helpful. It will be very impressive when done. (Discussion ensued.)

Ms. McNaughten reported on Gerry Rooney and the Whitfield-Manjiro House.

Mr. Roth indicated the next meeting is Thursday, December 17, 2015, starting at 6:00 p.m. and tentatively, Thursday, January 21, 2016, at 6:30.

Ms. Richard made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Meredith. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy White
Recording Secretary