

TOWN OF ACTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC) VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2021

7:30 PM

MEETING HELD BY ZOOM TELECONFERENCE AND AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Note: The Town of Acton in response to the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is currently following the guidance from the Acton Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC regarding the virus and steps communities can take to prevent the spread. The Town Hall is closed to the public.

Present: Mr. Ray Yacouby (Chair), Mr. Steve Trimble (Clerk), Mr. William Alesbury, Mr. Dean Charter, Ms. Carolyn Kilpatrick, Ms. Nancy Kolb, Ms. Alissa Nicol (Associate), Ms. Victoria Beyer

Absent: Mr. Jim Colman

Others Present: Ms. Kristen Guichard, Mr. Joe Will, Ms. Karen Martin, Mr. Matt Post, Mr. David Martin (Select Board), Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Mr. Leo Fochtman, Mr. Tom Gillispie, Ms. Melissa Rier, Ms. Clare Siska, Ms. Vicki Tardif

Mr. Yacouby (Chair) opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. The Chair read the notice regarding virtual meetings and how the public could access and participate in the meeting. All votes will be by roll call.

MEETING HELD BY ZOOM TELECONFERENCE AND AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

I. Regular Business

Roll Call: Attending: Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Alesbury, Ms. Kolb, Mr. Charter, Ms. Nicol, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Yacouby, Mr. Trimble Not Present: Mr. Jim Colman

1. Citizens' Concerns (7:35 PM - 7:44 PM)

- a. Mr. Yacouby requested from Ms. Guichard if there were any attendees with citizens' concern.
- b. Ms. Cathy Fochtman spoke to the Dog Park and notes the friends raised \$5,065 YTD. She noted that a grant application was sent to the National Recs and Park Association. It's focused on how to promote our parks, accommodate users of all abilities covering both conservation and recreation activities.
- c. Mr. Matt Post presented seven summary points on the Dog Park objections by abutters covering aspects such as inclusion and communication. They wish to have the project tabled by this Committee.

2. Review Meeting Minutes (7:45 PM – 7:47 PM)

- a. Mr. Yacouby requested a motion to approve the April 07, 2021 CPC Minutes.
- b. Mr. Alesbury moved to approve the minutes for April 07, 2021 seconded by Ms. Nicol.
- c. Minor updates were made to the minutes.
- d. Committee Disposition: "Ayes" Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Alesbury, Ms. Kolb, Mr. Charter, Ms. Nicol, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Yacouby, Mr. Foster, Mr. Trimble.
- e. Motion approved unanimously to accept the April 07, 2021 Minutes as amended as final.

3. **Administrative Updates & Scheduling (9:32 PM – 9:47 PM; agenda item handled out of stated sequence)**

- a. Ms. Guichard commented on the timings of the Select Board and Finance meetings and when the town warrant goes to print. April 28th a Stonefield Farm vote. May 3rd week the CPC Committee should seek to approve warrant article and due to Planning Department scheduling conflicts May 6th is the preferred date.
- b. Mr. Yacouby requested a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Kolb and seconded by Mr. Foster.
- c. Committee Disposition: “Ayes” Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Alesbury, Ms. Kolb, Mr. Charter, Ms. Nicol, Mr. Foster, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Yacouby, Mr. Trimble.
- d. Motion to adjourn the April 21, 2021 meeting approved unanimously.

II. **New/Special Business**

1. **Review Committee Member’s Input to CPC Worksheet (7:54 PM – 8:07 PM)**

- a. Mr. Yacouby reviewed and noted that due to the virtual nature of the meeting, we should do a voice vote on each project. The Committee favored the approach with Mr. Foster suggesting we lump consensus projects together for a combined vocal voice vote.
- b. Consensus & Near-Consensus projects: Textiles & Clothing Collection, the Community Housing Fund, Regional Housing Services, CPA Program Support, Main Street Development, Pencil Factory Bridge, 53 River Street, Nara Sports Pavilion, Elm Street Tennis Courts and Preliminary Archeological and Historical Review were the consensus requests and Jones Field.

2. **Project Discussion and Deliberations (8:07 PM – 9:32 PM)**

- a. Mr. Yacouby noted the following projects would be voted as a group as long as a few funding allocations could be resolved prior to the vote: Textiles & Clothing Collection, the Community Housing Fund, Regional Housing Services, CPA Program Support, Main Street Development, Pencil Factory Bridge, 53 River Street, Nara Sports Pavilion, Preliminary Archeological and Historical Review and Jones Field.
- b. The Pencil Factory discussion of contingency funding of \$4,000 (10%) and the Prelim Archaeological and Historical Review were settled after discussion.
- c. Motion to approve requested by Mr. Yacouby. If approved the amount would be match the majority of the committee’s allocation. Motion to approve made by Mr. Trimble seconded by Ms. Kilpatrick. “Ayes” Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Alesbury, Ms. Kolb, Mr. Charter, Mr. Foster, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Yacouby, Mr. Trimble. Motion to approve by the attending voting committee members passed unanimously.
- d. **Open Space:** Motion to approve \$393k (this number resolved overallocation by the Committee) was made by Mr. Trimble seconded by Mr. Foster. “Ayes” Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Alesbury, Ms. Kolb, Mr. Charter, Mr. Foster, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Yacouby, Mr. Trimble. The motion carried.
- e. **Gardner Playground:** \$100k with provision that any funding be directed to the playground structures only. Motion to approve made by Mr. Foster seconded by Ms. Kolb. “Ayes” Ms. Kilpatrick, Mr. Alesbury (who noted his concern that this could start without adequate knowledge of the end state and cost), Ms. Kolb, Mr. Charter, Mr. Foster, Ms. Beyer, Mr. Yacouby, Mr. Trimble. The motion carried.

- f. **Dog Park:** Motion to approve \$25k, made by M. Trimble seconded by Mr. Charter. Mr. Foster noted his objections to this project. Dean Charter noted that in the Town Charter the Town Manager has jurisdiction over efforts for this town property. Example cited: provisioning the community gardens at Morrison Farm. There is no legal reason for this to go to town meeting albeit he noted there is a citizen petition. Ms. Kilpatrick agrees with Mr. Foster and does not favor. Ms. Nicol noted the abutters position with safety, crime, litter & liability would make this site unusable for any project based on such position. She further stated that Acton is fortunate to provide amenities in town for unique individuals (e.g., Senior Center, toddler playgrounds) and this is similar in design. "Ayes": Mr. Alesbury, Mr. Charter, Mr. Yacouby, Mr. Trimble. Nays: Mr. Foster, Ms. Kilpatrick, Ms. Beyer, Ms. Kolb. The motion resulted in a split decision and did not pass.

3. Open Meeting Law Discussion

- a. Ms. Guichard Alissa reached out to town counsel on this. If members are attending another meeting you can see who is there. Zoom not all boards see who is in attendance and should take caution there. Mr. Yacouby noted reminded meeting attendees that they should be comfortable raising concerns with the Chair before approaching town counsel and town manager. Ms. Nicol noted she was assigned to Open Spaces and Historical Commissions and was seeking guidelines on any discussions given comments on restrictions to committees when at least 2 individuals from one committee were at another forum. Mr. Foster noted that all town volunteers go through training to instruct these guidelines.

4. CPC Membership Discussion

- a. The CPC has a full membership compliment with 1 of 2 associate members vacant (Ms. Nicol being the other associate member).
- b. It was noted that the Select Board (SB) liaison does not count as a member (e.g., Mr. Martin). Mr. Charter, also on the SB but not the liaison is a voting member.
- c. Town clerk has most recent list of committee members as it was noted that the town website reflects outdated membership.

Next Scheduled Meeting(s):

1. APR 28 – Wednesday (Mr. Trimble not attending)
2. May 6th – Thursday (Mr. Charter not attending)

Items used at the meeting:

1. CPC Agenda 2021-04-21.pdf
2. Draft CPC Minutes 04 07 21.pdf

Additional materials can be found here: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-13512>

For more information about Community Preservation Committee contact
cpc@actonma.gov or 978-929-6631