

Minutes
Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee (CPC)
August 11, 2016
Acton Memorial Library

Members Present: Bill Alesbury, Peter Berry, Tory Beyer, Dean Charter (Associate), Walter Foster, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Carolyn Kirkpatrick (Associate), Joe Will (Clerk), Ray Yacouby

Others Present: Robert Hummel (Acton Assistant Planner), Linda Davis-O'Neil (West Acton Baptist Church), Ruth Harris Thatcher (West Acton Baptist Church)

With no Chair currently on the CPC, Robert opened the meeting at 7:32 PM.

I. Citizen Concerns

- Linda and Ruth explained that the West Acton Baptist Church (WABC) has completed its belfry and Master Plan projects, and is ready to begin work on ceiling restoration and fire safety upgrade, all four projects supported with CPA \$. They expressed concern about “all that’s going on” (litigation) related to three 2016 grants to the two Congregational churches in Town. Peter described the lawsuit status and pointed out that the WABC projects have not been mentioned in the lawsuit. Walter “in all seriousness” urged that the WABC move as quickly as it can with its projects.

II. Minutes of May 12, 2016

- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented. Note: Minutes of February 25, 2016, Executive Session, and of June 20, 2016, Executive Session, have yet to be approved.

III. Election of Officers

- In three separate motions, it was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously that Walter be Chair, Bill be Vice Chair, and Joe be Clerk for the current CPC year. Upon Walter’s election as Chair, he took charge of the meeting.

IV. Finalize Draft of CP Plan 2017 for Release

- The CPC reviewed a draft of “Community Preservation Plan 2017” and provided suggestions to Robert re further changes. It also asked that he pursue clarification of a) the last paragraph on p 12 (funding for the holder of a conservation restriction) b) Project Execution procedures on p 25 (private v public projects). Dean will help with the latter by providing wording that will alert folks that public procurement laws apply to CPA-funded projects. Also needed is a Finance Committee update for p 2, paragraph 1.
- It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to approve the edits made at tonight’s meeting, acknowledging that there are a few issues left over for the next CPC meeting before the 2017 Plan can be approved.

V. Fall Meeting Schedule

- The next meeting is September 8. The CPC will use that meeting to finalize the 2017 Plan and then hold the Public Hearing for the Plan on September 22. Robert will see that the Public Hearing notice is adjusted accordingly. CPC members should send anything they want on either of the 09/08 or 09/22 agendas to Walter and Bill.
- The deadline for submission of project proposals is 11/14. There is a CPC meeting scheduled for 11/17. The Committee will relook at subsequent meeting dates once it sees the proposals.
- It was noted that even though there may be a preliminary Town Warrant in early January, that draft Warrant will not include any CPA amounts.

VI. Project Reports and Updates

- Groundbreaking for the Acton/Maynard portion of the Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT) was two weeks ago. The CPC may hear feedback from (upset) abutters at the north end of the ARRT due to clear-cutting that has occurred, and a new rail-trail parking lot. The CPC funded (in part) the ARRT design. If abutter feedback would be on an upcoming agenda, Peter would like certain Town staff to attend.
- The Discovery Museums Discovery Woods is now open. Robert will get details on the easements that were required for CPA funding assistance.
- The NARA Sports Pavilion, to be built around two donated modular homes, has the homes in position with one on a new foundation. The project is moving along.
- Re the Board of Selectmen (BoS) request for feedback on what to do with the Morrison Farm farmhouse, it was pointed out that whoever “wins” will be coming to the CPC for funding to support whatever is to happen. Therefore the Committee should remain neutral.

It was moved, seconded, and voted near unanimously (Peter abstained) to let the BoS know that the CPC is neutral re the fate of the Morrison Farm farmhouse.

VII. Administrative Updates

- Peter noted that the CPC has a regular voting member vacancy. (Missing is a Conservation Commission representative.)
- Katelyn Huffman has replaced Kim Gorman as Town Planning Administrative Assistant. (Kim has moved to Municipal Properties.)

VIII. Executive Session – To discuss pending Americans United litigation

- Peter summarized the public information available re the litigation. No Executive Session was called.

9:12 PM — It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn.