

Meeting Minutes
Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee
February 28th, 2007
Faulkner Room, Town Hall



Attending: Jon Benson, Peter Berry, Tory Beyer, Catherine Coleman, Walter Foster, Andy Magee, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Ed Starzec, Nancy Tavernier

Chair Catherine Coleman opened the meeting at 7:40 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes from 2/8/07

The minutes of the 2/8/07 meeting were approved with amendments.

2. Revised Acton Housing Authority Capital Fund Proposal

Kelley Cronin presented a summary of the AHA's revised proposal. Based on the recommendation of the Town Counsel (which was supported by the Department of Revenue), the proposal was modified to exclude work related to handicapped accessibility.

3. Community Preservation Coalition Membership

Peter Berry reported on his recent conversation with Stuart Saginor, Executive Director of the Community Preservation Coalition. Mr. Saginor is willing to come in to meet with the committee. Andy Magee indicated that if we decide to join, the Board of Selectmen voted to fund our membership dues out of the general fund, similar to how dues for various other town committees are funded. This will take the membership off of the Town Meeting warrant and allow the committee time to meet with Mr. Saginor. Peter Berry will schedule the meeting.

4. Field Lighting Intermunicipal Agreement

Walter Foster provided an update on the status of the IMA, which has been simplified. Basically, the Recreation Department will be responsible for scheduling all both fields and the tennis courts for all of the "lit" hours (i.e., 6:00PM to 10:00PM) with a few exceptions. The Recreation Department will also schedule for an eight-week period in the summer. The schools will schedule the daytime use of the facilities. This agreement needs to be finalized and signed by the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Foster indicated that he would like to see as a condition that the project include separate circuits for each of the fields and the tennis courts and that the switches would be remotely operable (via internet).

There followed some discussion of whether the IMA should cover daytime (i.e., non-lit) scheduling and whether one party should be responsible for all scheduling in order to simplify the process of scheduling for user groups.

Sanjay Khosla explained that all three bids would include three zones and internet operability. Lights would go on automatically at 6:00PM and off at 9:00PM. "Push button" activation is not practical as the lights require a 10 minute recharge period after shutting off. Mr. Khosla noted that the use of recreational fields is scheduled twice a year so it should not become an administrative burden. Mr. Khosla also updated the committee on his discussions with the Boxborough Board of Selectmen. He has asked them to fund a proportionate share of the project and the question will appear on the Boxborough Town Meeting warrant.

5. Historic Designation Issues

The Acton Historical Commission provided letters of support for the East Acton Village Green project and the Granite Markers project. It was agreed that the original letter of support submitted by the Historical Commission for the archaeological survey project was sufficient.

6. Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen

The Finance Committee has not yet discussed this year's CPC proposals but will in the near future. The Selectmen voted to support all projects pending the vote of the committee. Their only concern is the IMA, which is now complete in principal. Nancy Tavernier asked if the IMA has to be on the warrant. Walter Foster replied that it does not but that he would like to have it signed beforehand.

7. Final Vote on CPC Recommendations

Andy McGee moved to accept and carry forward the committee's recommendations as noted in the "consensus" column of the CPC spreadsheet dated 2/28/07. This would appropriate \$1,331,880.00 and leave an unallocated balance of \$193,065.14. Walter Foster seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Approval of Town Meeting Warrant

The committee suggested several small edits to the draft warrant article, which were made by Kristin Alexander. Andy McGee moved that the warrant be approved with amendments, Walter Foster seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Bylaw Changes

The committee reviewed the proposed bylaw amendment to Chapter S (Community Preservation Committee) of the Town Bylaws. There followed some discussion about voting policies regarding associate members.

10. New Business

- **Town Meeting Presenter.** Chair Catherine Coleman volunteered to make this year's presentation.
- **AHA Accessibility Issue.** Ken Sghia-Hughes asked if the committee could write a letter of support for the Community Preservation Coalition's proposed

legislation which would clarify that accessibility improvements to affordable housing are an allowable use of CPA funds.

- **Morrison Farm.** Walter Foster mentioned that the Board of Selectmen will be discussing next steps for Morrison Farm and to expect to see Morrison Farm related CPC proposals next year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.