Community Preservation Meeting Minutes
Town Hall – February 4, 2019
Sturbridge, MA

At 7:00 pm Ed Goodwin called the meeting to order. In attendance: Ed Goodwin (EG), Heather Hart (HH), Kelly Emrich (KE), Kadion Philips (KP), and Barbara Search (BS). Absent: Penny Dumas (PD), and Ed Neal (EN).

Guests: Bob Briere (BB); Jim and Minxie Fannin of Fannin-Lehner Preservation Consultants.

EG welcomed Joanne Everson to the clerk position and the committee members introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

KP moved the motion to accept the January 9, 2019, meeting minutes as amended; HH seconds. Motion accepted 4-0-1 (KE abstained).

KE moved the motion to accept the Community Preservation Committee 2018 Annual Report as written; BS seconded. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

Old Burial Ground, North Cemetery Proposal

After showing pictures of the work that has recently been done by the Fannins in Sturbridge, BB submitted the FY20 Fannin-Lehner proposal to continue the work of restoring gravestones in town. M. Fannin thanked the committee for their support over the years and stated that the plan is to keep up the Old Burial Ground while the thrust of the work will be at the North Cemetery.

KP moved the motion to recommend to the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) that the town fund up to $9,500.00 from CPA Historical Funds for restoration to Fannin-Lehner to repair 15-20 gravestones; BS seconded. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

ATM Warrant Article – Administrative Funds

There was discussion of increasing the Administrative Funds due to the hiring of the CPC clerk. Uses of the fund include surveys, appraisals for antique homes, title searches, and attorneys' fees.

HH moved the motion to recommend to the ATM that the town set aside the sum of $22,000.00 from General CPA Funds for Administrative Funds to meet CPC needs; KE seconded. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

Tape Survey

Due to the absence of EN, this proposed use of Administrative Funds was tabled until the next meeting.

Placeholder for Housing Fund

After discussion regarding the upcoming deadline for warrant articles for the upcoming ATM, it was decided that there was a need to vote a placeholder for the Habitat for Humanities project sponsored by Jean Bubon.

HH moved the motion to put a placeholder to the ATM warrant to consider Jean Bubon's proposal for a Habitat for Humanities home on Cedar Street; KP seconded. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

Placeholder for Trails

BS asked if this was separate from the proposed development to take down the old mill on Holland Road. EG stated the mill is on private land and the trails are on public land between the Holland Road bridge and the Old Sturbridge Village bridge. It was recommended that PD ask the Trails Committee to present a proposal to the CPC.

HH moved the motion to put a placeholder to the ATM warrant for the Riverlands Trails Project; KE seconded. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

Placeholder for Recreation

KP requested a placeholder for engineering, including surveying, contracts and permitting, at 60 and 70 Cedar Street (across from the Recreation Area). The town owns 14 acres of fairly flat land which could be used for recreation fields.

EG suggested that the Recreation Committee take over the Streeter Beach facility which was closed for lack of funds. He said it would require dealing with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

KP moved the motion to put a placeholder to the ATM warrant for engineering, including surveying, contracts and permitting, at 60 and 70 Cedar Street; KE seconded. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

Old Business

BS stated that the windows in the Center School Building are not done. The person who submitted the previous estimate is not doing that work anymore. BS stated that the windows in the Town Hall will have weatherization of sprung bronze and storm windows which increases the cost of the windows but will cut drafts and save energy. EG asked if there would be a request for CPC funds for the project; BS said capital funds are an option for funding.

EG stated that the Conservation Commission needs two additional people.

KP asked about the status of the archives at Town Hall. BS said the books are not being organized but that she would like to see that happen; additionally the books in Clerk's Office and the Library are in need of organization.

KE moved the motion to adjourn the meeting; HH seconded. Motion accepted 5-0-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next meeting March 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

/jme