Community Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes

 Town Hall – September 14, 2020

 Sturbridge, MA

At 7:01 pm the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Chair called the meeting to order. In attendance: Penny Dumas (PD), Ed Goodwin (EG), Kadion Phillips (KP), Jeff Adams (JA), and Ed Neal (EN). Barbara Search (BS) arrived at 7:02. Absent: Kelly Emrich (KE).

Guest: Jeff Bridges (JB), Town Administrator

This meeting was held remotely pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020, Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020, order imposing strict limitations of the number of people that may gather in one place. The meeting was held via the GoToMeeting application and available for public access via the Town’s on demand video broadcast, on cable television, or by telephone access during the meeting.

PD read an introduction to the virtual meeting.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

EN moved the motion to accept the May 27, 2020, minutes as presented; EG seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Roll call vote:

 KP, yes EN, yes BS, yes EG, yes JA, yes PD, yes

**Belanger Property**

EG moved the motion to support the Board of Selectmen’s moving forward with the taking of 53 Holland Road by eminent domain; JA seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

Roll call vote:

 KP, yes EN, yes BS, yes JA, yes EG, yes PD, yes

JB explained that the Mrs. Belanger owns 10+ acres in the Riverlands area; he added that she and the

Board of Selectmen (BOS) are hundreds of thousands of dollars apart in their opinions of the property’s value. He stated that the BOS wants to know if there is interest in publicly supporting the Town’s taking of the property by eminent domain. PD explained the previous acquisition of the Long Pond property by eminent domain; she said that it is the last step that the Town takes when a parcel is critical and a land owner is unreasonable. EG stated that this property is needed to connect the trail network. JB displayed a map showing the parcel in question and showed that the Town owns all other needed parcels in the Riverlands. EN explained the eminent domain process. PD added that the Town has been attempting to work with Mrs. Belanger for at least 10 years and JB has been the first Town Administrator to be able to communicate with Mrs. Belanger.

**Streeter Road Beach**

JB explained that the Army Corps of Engineers wants a guarantee that the beach will be open to the public; he added that the Town abandoned Streeter Road in 1957. He said that the abutting property owner is very helpful and will allow a new access point to the beach. JB said that he is at the point of needing an engineering estimate to design the new road and will request CPC funds for engineering in the next month or so. He stated that there will probably need to be a Town Meeting vote to allow for the design of the access road.

PD thanked BS for meeting with the Finance Committee prior to Town Meeting, noting that she did a tremendous job of both educating and answering their questions. PD thanked KP for speaking at Town Meeting clarifying the information regarding the lighting project at Town Barn Field. JB added that the bid opening for the lighting project will be later in the week.

Next meeting will be announced at a later date. JA leaves meeting at 7:30.

EG moved the motion to adjourn; KP seconds. Motion accepted 5-0-0.

Roll call vote:

 EG, yes BS, yes KP, yes EN, yes PD, yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

/jme