Community Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes

Town Hall – March 2, 2020

Sturbridge, MA

At 7:00 pm the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Chair called the meeting to order. In attendance: Penny Dumas (PD), Ed Goodwin (EG), Kadion Phillips (KP), Dane LaBonte (DL), Jeff Adams (JA), Barbara Search (BS), Ed Neal (EN), and Kelly Emrich (KE).

DL explained that he has been appointed to the Planning Board. As he was told he could no longer be on the CPC as the second Planning Board member, this is his last meeting with the CPC.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

EG moved the motion to accept the February 3, 2020, meeting minutes as amended; JA seconds. Motion accepted 7-0-1 (KE abstained).

**Historic Artwork at Library**

EG moved the motion to see if the Town will vote for CPA Historic funds up to $5,000 for the purpose of restoration of three historic portraits by William Willard located at the Sturbridge Public Library; JA seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.

BS explained that there are three portraits by William Willard. One is of George Baxter Hyde; one is thought to be of General Hooker; the other is believed to be of J. R. Johnson, a soldier killed in Spotsylvania. She said that complete restoration for all three paintings will cost $5,000. She added that the Historical Commission approved complete restoration of the portraits at its last meeting. EG asked where the paintings are displayed; BS stated that they were displayed at the library but are currently down due to the recent restoration project at the library and the need for restoration. BS read a list of the issues with the Hyde portrait. DL asked if the frames would be restored also; BS indicated they would be.

**53 Holland Road**

PD stated that Town Administrator Jeff Bridges (JB) informed her that the appraisal for 53 Holland Road has been received by the Town and has been sent to the property’s owner. She reminded the committee that the owner lives in Hawaii and all correspondence is by regular mail. She added that the placeholder for this property remains in hopes of having a proposal to bring to the voters at Town Meeting in June.

**Finance Committee Attendance**

PD asked that each proponent who came forward to the CPC with proposals appear before the Finance Committee in preparation for Town Meeting. EN will find out when the Finance Committee wants to hear from the CPC so everyone can be notified.

**Other Business**

EN estimated that the cost over time of the restoration at the two Town cemeteries is over $100,000. EG stated that it has been an ongoing project of over ten years. PD said the project will continue to be ongoing. BS added that there is damage and breakage over the years and new things come up.

BS brought up the subject of storm windows for Town Hall. She stated that the Historical Commission had discussed the proposal for windows in December and January but did not actually vote until February 13, which was after the CPC’s vote to place the proposal on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

EG moved the motion to recognize the CPC’s original vote on February 3 to see if the Town will spend $17,600 from Historic funds to purchase and install storm windows at Town Hall and the Historical Commission’s making the CPC aware of its later vote on February 13; JA seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-0.

BS asked about the December 2019 request for window restoration at the library. PD will make sure that the Board of Selectmen has the library storm windows on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

EN informed the CPC that there might be a property on Cedar Street that would be suitable for affordable housing. PD instructed him to bring forward a proposal.

PD reminded CPC members of the Conservation Commission’s proposal to remove outbuildings on Town trails. She stated that JB is considering breaking the project up and doing it over time rather than as one project. She said that Conservation Agent Becky Gendreau wanted it together to be more fiscally cost effective. DL stated that the buildings are dangers and should be removed as soon as possible.

The next meeting is April 6, 2020.

DL moved the motion to adjourn; BS seconds. Motion accepted and meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

/jme