**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Town Hall ~ May 8, 2018**

**Sturbridge, MA**

**Call to Order:**

The Finance Committee chair called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following committee members were present: Kathy Neal (KN), Michael Serio (MS), James Waddick (JW), Larry Morrison (LM), Mike Hager (MH), Joni Light (JL).

Absent: Jared Burns (JB), Karen Davis (KD), and Bruce Boyson (BB).

Guest: Tom Chamberland (TC), Trails Committee Member; Annie Roscioli (AR), Recreation Director; Mary Lou Volpe (MV), Recreation Committee Chair; Eric Carson (EC), Recreation Committee Secretary; Kaidon Phillips (KP), Recreation Committee Treasurer.

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review**

KN introduced TC and asked for a breakdown of Article 4. TC explained that the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) requested funds to keep the trail construction process moving. He stated that there is a Master Plan for recreation trails including mountain biking and hiking. TC added that there are several years of work ahead and people are making their own trails because the trails aren’t being developed fast enough. LM moved the motion to recommend Article 4 – Community Preservation – Open Space/Trails; MS seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MS asked if endangered species are a concern when building a trail. TC stated that trails are designed around endangered species and that the Plimpton property trails will be designed to protect the endangered species there.

JL moved the motion to recommend Article 3 – Community Preservation – Historic Cemetery Restoration; MS seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MS moved the motion to recommend Article 6 – Community Preservation – Administration; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MS moved the motion to recommend Article 13 – Community Preservation Debt Service; MH seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

JW moved the motion to recommend Article 10 – Sewer Department; JL seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

MS moved the motion to recommend Article 14 – Town Barn Field Project; LM seconds. Motion defeated 3-3-0 (KN, JW, JL). AR explained that the Recreation Committee is following the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to request an additional $500,000.00 from the Community Preservation Commission. Discussion followed concerning the removal of ledge, the possibility of artificial turf on the proposed multisport field, the use of the Plimpton property for fields, other large projects that may arise for consideration, potential fund raising opportunities, and the need for fields for recreation.

MH moved the motion to recommend Article 28 – Revolving Funds – Spending Limits FY19; JW seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0.

The essays for the Finance Committee book for Town Meeting were discussed.

**No Meeting Minutes to Approve**

**No Old Business**

**New Business**

KN stated that there is no contact information available on the town website and discussed adding email addresses for committee members.

**No Public Access**

JW moved the motion to adjourn; MH seconds. Motion accepted 6-0-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

/jme