**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Town Hall ~ May 2, 2019**

**Sturbridge, MA**

**Call to Order:**

The Finance Committee Chair called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following committee members were present: Kathy Neal (KN), Michael Hager (MH), Bruce Boyson (BB), Karen Davis (KD), Kevin Smith (KS), Larry Morrison (LM), Jared Burns (JB), Joni Light (JL) and James Waddick (JW).

Guests: Tom Ford (TF), Sturbridge Police Chief; Heather Hart (HH), Representative, Community Preservation Committee (CPC); and Jeff Bridges (JBr), Town Administrator.

**Review of Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

Article 41 – Public Marijuana Consumption Bylaw – MH moved the motion to recommend Article 41 as amended. LM seconds. Motion defeated 4-4-1 (KD, JL, JB, KN against; JW abstained).

TF stated that he had been asked to work on this bylaw by the previous Town Administrator with the goal of giving both local control and local enforcement of public marijuana consumption to the Town. He said that he has worked with Town Counsel and utilized sample policies from the Police Chiefs of Massachusetts as approved by the Attorney General’s Office. He added that this bylaw would allow any fines issued to come back to the Town. TF said that Article 41 would allow for the Town to designate areas that are not public but are under Town control as marijuana possession free zones. He said that the bylaw also allows for enforcement on private property. He gave the example of the Wal-Mart complex; he said it is private property which is open to the public and the bylaw would allow for enforcement at the complex. He said that the current open container law would apply only to marijuana being transported in vehicles.

Marijuana usage on the Town Common was discussed at length. TF stated that smoking is objectionable to some people while eating edibles would probably not bother other event goers at the Common; he said if there were a complaint, the consumer could be field tested and cited if necessary. There was discussion of violations and fines that accompany violations. BB stated that possession is legal; public consumption is different. TF said this is an example of regulatory restrictions on things that are legal and that every department in Town restricts components of everyday life.

Article 2 – Community Preservation Committee Report – KS moved the motion to recommend Article 2 as written. JB seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0.

Article 3 – Community Preservation Committee Administration Funds – KD moved the motion to recommend Article 3 as written. MH seconds. Motion accepted 8-1-0 (KS against.) HH stated that the increase in Article 3 is due to the new clerk position and if the amount is not used, it goes back to the General Fund.

Article 4 – Community Preservation Debt Service – KS moved the motion to recommend Article 4 as written. KD seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0.

Article 5 – Community Preservation Committee – Gravestones Restoration – KS moved the motion to recommend Article 5 as amended to read: *To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund-Historic Funds Balance the sum of NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($9,500.00) for restoration and repair of fifteen to twenty historic gravestones in the Town’s North Cemetery and Old Burial Grounds; or take any action relative thereto.* KD seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0. HH stated that Bob Briere has a survey of all markers currently needing repair. She will ask him to forward an update.

Article 6 – Community Preservation Committee – Comprehensive Housing Study – KS moved the motion to recommend Article 6 as written. KD seconds. Motion accepted 8-0-1 (KD abstained). HH stated that the CPC is working to update the Sturbridge Housing Plan. The Town is below the 10% affordable housing goal; the study will set goals, describe the type of housing and identify parcels available for construction of affordable housing.

Article 7 – Community Preservation Committee – Riverland Development and General Trail Improvement – KD moved the motion to recommend Article 7 as amended: *To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund Undesignated Fund Balance the sum of THIRTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($30,350.00) to fund the Riverland Development and General Trail Improvements proposal for recreation purposes; or take any other action relative thereto.* KS seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0. After discussion regarding the wording and the possibility of adding the word “active” before recreation, it was decided that the wording in the Article is to allow for the legal use of the funds not the legal use of the land. HH stated that access to the parcel is approved and that the Article is for general trail improvements and will not include fields.

Article 8 – Community Preservation Committee – Town Cemetery Signs – JB moved the motion to recommend Article 8 as amended: *To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund – Historic Fund Balance the sum of ONE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($1,000.00) for the construction and installation of two signs for the purpose of preserving historic gravestones, one at each of the entrances of the Historic Burial Ground and North Cemetery to deter rubbings; or take any action related thereto.* KD seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0. HH stated that she would suggest to the Historical Commission that the signs conform to the Wayfinding symbol, fonts, and coloring.

Article 9 – Community Preservation Committee – Grand Trunk Trail Central Section Feasibility Design Study – KS moved the motion to recommend Article 9 as written. KD seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0.

Article 10 – Community Preservation Committee – Old Sturbridge Village Easement Costs for Grand Trunk Trail Easement (requires a 2/3 vote) – KS moved the motion to recommend Article 10 as amended: *To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund – Open Space Fund Balance the sum of FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 ($5,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing an easement from Old Sturbridge Village to provide access to the Riverlands Trail; or take any action relative thereto.* KD seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0.

Article 43 – Quacumquasit Lake (South Pond) – Alum Treatment – KS moved the motion to take no action on Article 43. JB seconds. Motion accepted 8-1-0 (BB against). JBr stated that there will be a substitute motion that meets Town standards at Town Meeting.

**Report of the Finance Committee – Topics for Consideration**

The decision was made not to include essays this year because there are no significant issues to address.

**No Meeting Minutes**

**New Business**

JB, KD, JW and JL will meet to prepare the book for printing. The Finance Committee will meet next Thursday to review the book prior to printing.

**No Old Business**

**No Public Access**

JB moved the motion to adjourn. KD seconds. Motion accepted 9-0-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

/jme