

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August 28, 2019
Bennett Gardens Meeting Room

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WRENTHAM, MA

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Present: Chair Barry Kassler, Robin McDonald, Mark Cuddy, Alex Leonard, Scott Manchuso, Chuck Woodhams, Alan Richard.

Absent: Leo Immonen, Steve Langley.

At 7:06p Mr. Kassler called the meeting to order.

- Election of Officers: Chair - Barry Kassler nominated by Mr. Woodhams, seconded and unanimously approved; Vice-Chair- Mark Cuddy nominated by Ms. McDonald, seconded and unanimously approved; Clerk – Robin McDonald nominated by Mark Cuddy, seconded and unanimously approved.
- Introduction of New Administrative Assistant, Heather Ledbetter
- MA CPA Coalition Annual Dues - \$1750; Ms. McDonald made a motion to approve the dues as an administrative expense. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
- July 24, 2019 meeting minutes – Ms. McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Lake Archer Weed Mitigation – \$45,000 /3 installments of \$15,000 yearly

Mr. Manchuso says the Lake has an active association which can partially fund project – suction harvesting or blankets to get rid of invasive species. Lake Archer has limited access to the community – limited recreational access. He suggests eliminating the invasive threat by giving entire amount.

Ms. McDonald feels it is important for the community to maintain lakes in town. They are important open space areas. Lakes are a positive component of the community.

Mr. Leonard asks if the Committee can commit to a 3-year project or perhaps we should only give the one-year installment and the association should apply again next year. Mr. Leonard would like to see all three lakes work together.

Mr. Kassler says if this project is not approved every year it could jeopardize the work done in the first year. In three years, we may have more information on what treatments work best given that there are 3 Lakes seeking assistance for invasive weeds.

Mr. Leonard would like to see the 3 Lakes work together. He would like to see more efficiency with this project. Mr. Woodhams feels that each of the Lakes has very distinct problems requiring different methods.

Mr. Manchuso suggest perhaps there could be a town wide strategy in the future for the Lakes. This funding may be considered Phase 1 and the Lakes may become more self-sufficient as a result of the funding and the results on reducing the invasives.

Ms. McDonald suggests that in three years the CPC ask for a report on results/progress.

Mr. Kassler states this is an affordable project. The Committee can get a progress report from the environmental company doing the Lake work.

Ms. McDonald made a motion to support \$45,000 with a condition of a report yearly - The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mirror Lake Preservation - \$23,000 total - (\$7,000 for weed removal plus \$16,000 for a stormwater drainage study). Road stormwater drainage pipes dump into the lake – the study will demonstrate what is actually happening.

Mr. Leonard feels the Wrentham DPW must be involved and should fund the stormwater study. Mr. Kassler states that the Town has not addressed the direct runoff into the Lake but with the new stormwater standards it must be addressed. Mr. Woodhams asks if Norfolk contributing to this project. Ms. McDonald says that the Friends of Mirror Lake were going to talk with the Norfolk Conservation Commission about this Lake. Mr. Kassler suggests that the stormwater study will help the Mirror lake group inform both towns on what is happening to the Lake.

Mr. Manchuso suggests a boat launch and parking lot clean up on the Norfolk side of the Lake.

Ms. McDonald made a motion to approve \$23,000 for Friends of Mirror Lake on the condition that the study results will be shared with the Committee. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Lake Pearl Invasive Weed Project – \$83,000 for purchase of a mechanical harvester.

Mr. Kassler was contacted by a member of the Lake Pearl Study Committee (a town appointed committee) - he said the weed project was never proposed to the whole Committee at a meeting. Mr. Kassler had asked the Chairman for the meeting minutes to prove the proposed project has the support of the Committee. Without the support of the Committee we do not have a legitimate proposal.

Mr. Manchuso feels this project is like funding a maintenance issue. Ms. McDonald says that the harvester proposed for the project doesn't just cut the weeds but actually pulls them out of lake reducing the amount of harmful detritus on the bottom of the lake which is restorative.

Mr. Woodhams moved to table the discussion on the proposal until a vote by the Lake Pearl Committee and to suggest they get three bids for the harvester cost by the September CPC meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Rice Recreation Area Playground - \$545,315 proposal. Mr. Kassler says the CPC asked for three competitive bids but did not get complete bids as comparative equipment costs were not included.

Mr. Cuddy feels the Committee should not hold up the approval process because they did not get equipment bids. The Recreation Commission will decide which bid is appropriate.

Ms. McDonald mentions when purchasing playground equipment, it is difficult to compare the products as they look the same but are often not the same materials and therefore different quality and cost.

Mr. Leonard feels that the warranty on equipment is important. Mr. Kassler suggests the CPC should be shown other bids even if they are not the same equipment. The Recreation Commission has not satisfied what the committee asked. Mr. Cuddy suggests that as a group we do not need to vet the project in this way and in the end, it will be voted on by Town Meeting.

Mr. Kassler thinks it is the CPC's responsibility to vet this project and should be presented with other proposals. The CPC needs to be confident in the value of the proposal if it is to support the project. We got a one product presentation and I do not feel it is adequate due diligence.

Mr. Cuddy says the Recreation Commission will make their decision on vendors and we need not do more and the Commission still has over \$111,000 to finance for the project. Ms. McDonald mentions that the town will follow a process of vetting if this project is approved. The CPC can't do that work – it's not our job. Mr. Kassler feels this is a great project but it was not compared to other complete bids and he would like the full comparisons.

Mr. Leonard suggests the CPC should meet with the Town Administrator, Kevin Sweet to get guidance.

Mr. Woodhams made a motion to table this proposal until next month's meeting to give the Recreation Commission an opportunity to meet with appropriate Town officials regarding the issue and to suggest to the Recreation Commission that we advise them to seek a competitive bid from a different manufacturer for comparison purposes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Woodhams made a motion to adjourn the CPC meeting at 8:46pm. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Next Community Preservation Committee Meeting Date: September 25, 2019