

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2020

A Public Meeting of the Community Preservation Committee was held on Thursday January 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall room 210.

Present: Rich Scanlon, Chairman, Doug Meagher, Vice Chair, Travis Brown, Treasurer, Tom Conway, Member, Marlies Henderson, Member, Jim O'Donnell, Member, Joe Fiumara, Member, Caddy Em, Member, Matt Battcock, Member, and Katie Mahoney, Community Preservation Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Rich Scanlon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated the meeting is being audio recorded by Joyce MacMillan, recording secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

SHERIDAN ST/RIVER ACCESS APPLICATION:

Isabel Tourkantonis, Director of Environmental Affairs, explained the project and gave the Committee a couple of handouts. She explained some of the complications due to wet lands and what their preliminary plans are. She emphasized that these are very rough drafts. They did get two estimates. She also noted that some of the abutters were in the audience and once they have more data, she plans to work with them on the project.

Also with Isabel were two of the Conservation Commission Committee members; JoAnne Giovino, Vice Chair and Diane DePaso, Secretary to help with any questions or concerns.

Chairman Rich Scanlon opened the floor to the Committee for questions or concerns to Isabel Tourkantonis. All the Committee members were in favor of this project. A couple of them had questions/concerns in regards to parking, flooding, trash, etc.

Abutters:

Al Chin of 28 Sheridan St expressed his feelings in regards to parking and trash but stated if done right, it will be great.

Tony Ventresca of 31 Sheridan St also expressed his feelings in regards to parking especially people with trailers, his loss of quietness, concerns of flooding and trash. He would however like to see the property cleaned up.

Voting on this application will take place at the April Public Hearing.

KATIE DURAND MEMORIAL PARK (CARTER AVE) APPLICATION:

Isabel Tourkantonis, Director of Environmental Affairs, explained the project and gave the committee a couple of handouts. She explained that the house that was once there has been demolished. There is a path to the beach but it is not convenient. They would like to create a board walk in there and keep the area as natural as possible. Katie Durand Memorial Park is in honor of Katie Durand. She was a Town of Billerica employee from the Conservation Department who passed away at the very young age of 28. Her life was dedicated to conservation. She loved nature; she loved her work, and loved being outdoors in any season. This project is a little bigger than the Sheridan St River Access project, more of a park concept.

Also with Isabel were two of the Conservation Commission Committee members; JoAnne Giovino, Vice Chair and Diane DePaso, Secretary to help with any questions or concerns.

Chairman Rich Scanlon opened the floor to the Committee for questions or concerns for Isabel Tourkantonis. All the Committee members were in favor of this project. A couple of them had questions in regards to location and how residents will find their way. Isabel stated there would trail mapping pamphlets created once completed.

Voting on this application will take place at the April Public Hearing

FOLLOW UP ON LIBRARY ELIGIBILITY – HC LETTER:

The Historic Commission met with Kathy Meagher, Library Historian, to clarify what she was asking for within her application for preservation of historic documents. Travis Brown explained the letter to the Committee and indicated that the items in the Library History Room are deemed historic through the Historic Commission. Marlies Henderson believes the application does not follow the CPC’s flow chart. Kathy Meagher explained exactly what she was looking for and tried to clear up any confusion. Marlies is not in agreement with this. Katie Mahoney reached out to a couple of other towns (Gloucester, Wellesley & Northfield) with similar projects and all responses indicated that there were no legal issues brought forward in any of these areas.

BILLERICA PUBLIC LIBRARY APPLICATION:

Chairman Rich Scanlon opened the floor to the Committee for questions regarding the application. There were no questions or concerns that had not already been discussed.

FISCAL UPDATE:

Katie Mahoney shared that on page 2 of the report, you’ll see the payment to Sign Effects for the CPC signage. She displayed the signs that have been completed, the Committee is happy with them. Signs will be placed soon.

COORDINATORS REPORT:

The Fire Truck Project is moving forward. The truck was moved from the fire house the day before to be worked on.

MINUTES:

Nov 21, 2019

Marlies Henderson believes the minutes for Nov 21, 2019 has an error on the vote for the Billerica Library Eligibility. She believes she vote against it.

Doug Meagher, seconded by Matt Battcock made the motion to accept the minutes of November 21, 2019 as amended.

It was voted:

- 6 – In favor
- 0 – Opposed
- 3 – Abstained (Battcock, Em & Fiumara)

Dec 5, 2019

Doug Meagher, seconded by Matt Battcock made the motion to accept the minutes of December 5, 2019 as amended.

It was voted:

7 – In favor
0 – Opposed
2 – Abstained (Brown & Em)

MISCELLANEOUS/CORRESPONDENCE – NOT OPEN FOR DISCUSSION:

N/A

ADJOURNMENT:

Matt Battcock, seconded by Travis Brown made motion to adjourn.

It was voted:

9 – In favor
0 – Opposed

Chairman Rich Scanlon adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Joyce MacMillan
Recording Clerk