

**Community Preservation Committee
Minutes of April 2, 2013**

Members present: Chairperson Helen Dunlap, Brian Bond, Jesse Forcier, Harvey Gagnon, Louise Tremblay, John Hassan, Ken Lania, George Malonis, and Linda Kawa. Also present was Glen Edwards, Assistant Town Manager and Samantha Carver recording secretary. The meeting was held at 1540 Lakeview Avenue in the Junior High in the Library, Dracut, MA.

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Dunlap explained that this procedure requiring lists of priorities is new to the Committee and they will take input and vote tonight for articles to be presented at Town Meeting in June. A public hearing will have to be held on what is voted on tonight will be scheduled sometime in May along with a presentation to the Selectmen prior to Town Meeting.

There was a discussion on taking Long Pond Association out of order. Ms. Tremblay made a motion to take Long Pond out of order and hear it first. Mr. Malonis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Long Pond Association

Emile Demers presented a cover letter and information on Tyngsborough Natural Areas. Mr. Demers went through the packet handed out describing when Long Pond Association was founded and the statistics of the lake and the weeds currently found in the pond. The Committee discussed the invasive weeds found: curly-leaf pondweed and bushy pondweed (Najas). The Committee asked what happens if these weeds are not treated. Mr. Demers stated the pond will become unusable. He stated there is already a portion of the pond that is unuseable due to weeds. They have been treating the pond for eight plus years with an herbicide (diquat) Mr. Demers stated it targets these two plants. Mr. Malonis asked Mr. Demers to describe the current contract they have to treat these weeds. Mr. Demers referred to his handout which shows the contract from 2012 which shows three options to treat the pond. Mr. Demers stated both option A & B are needed and they are looking for help to subsidize the treatment along with the monies they collect. The Association is looking to get \$6,000 to subsidize their efforts. The Committee asked about the part of the pond in Pelham, NH -- Mr. Demers stated Pelham gives them \$1,500 toward the weed treatment stating they cannot use monies they get to treat the NH side of the pond but some of the treatment is naturally carried into New Hampshire with the movement of the water. There was a brief discussion on requiring boats to be washed before entering the pond to prevent the spread of the weeds. Mr. Demers stated they are going to work on literature to educate the boaters.

Mr. Malonis suggested they do separate articles for these items and suggested a not to exceed figure.

Mr. Bond made a motion to approve an article for Town Meeting relative to subsidizing weed control at Long Pond for a not to exceed amount of \$6,000 based on last years contract. Ms. Tremblay seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Space Committee

Mr. Dave Sutherland presented the Open Space Committee list of priorities to the Preservation Committee.

Mr. Sutherland went down the list presented as follows:

Educational forum - \$500

Acquisition of Open Space -- Unknown cost

Trail Development – there was a discussion on trail development and Mr. Hassan stated that you may run into conservation issues etcetera. Mr. Sutherland stated they are more interested in improving the trails they already have as noted: Proprietor's Way, Rifle Range trail and Beaver Brook Trails with trail markers and educational tools about the trails. Mr. Malonis suggested incorporating the cost of these items noted into a not to exceed figure of \$5,000 subject to the provision it not include major trail renovation or design. Mr. Gagnon seconded for discussion. He commented on Proprietors Way and having to get the legal definition for access from Marsh Hill Road because the neighbors were trying to take control of this access. The motion carried unanimously.

Recreation Commission

Mr. Mike Parent spoke on behalf of Recreation with regards to the revised list of priority facilities and field memorandum dated February 26, 2013. Mr. Parent pointed out Steve Talbot, Jamie Desmaris, and George Malonis on the Commission. Brian Martin of Dracut Pop Warner was also present.

1. Mr. Parent stated they prioritized this list as a Board and discussion began on the first item being development of the Dadak Property. Mr. Bond's recollection of this agreement was that this field was going to be developed and put aside specifically for Pop Warner. Mr. Parent stated they have use for a multipurpose field which would include football. Mr. Bond stated in the agreement with the Developer on the Dadak parcel he was to put aside monies for the development of this field. Mr. Malonis had a conversation with Ms. Cahill who had stated it may be an issue with wetlands if they try to get all the fields they had planned in this area. Mr. Bond reiterated that this parcel was specifically promised to Pop Warner and that Draco Homes and Kevin O'Brien would provide labor and materials toward the development of the parcel as part of the approval of their respective subdivisions.

Mr. Parent and Mr. Desmaris stated they have no problem with this being a multipurpose field where Pop Warner has their practice they stated they are not anti Pop Warner. Mr. Martin stated currently Pop Warner doesn't have a home due to being moved from the High School fields due to construction and not having enough room at Veteran's Park. He stated this field is not going to solve all of their needs but they need a practice field with lights.

Mr. Malonis stated they have not had an opportunity to sit down with Pop Warner and asked that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Gagnon stated we needed a clear determination before the Committee can entertain a vote on this issue. The permit for the Dadak parcel should be investigated to see what was actually promised. Mr. Hassan added that the land has been cleared and grassed.

2. Bathrooms at Monahan Field – Mr. Parent stated the original intent was to put bathrooms where port-a-potties are placed on the field now next to the Skateboard Park. Mr. George Roy initiated raising monies for this project and put it on hold. They also are waiting to see about the the acquisition of the property next to the field. An initial proposal was done February 2012 and presented to the Town Manager and Departments however nothing has come from it. Mr. Parent stated in that proposal \$42,000 was estimated to complete this project. The Committee questioned what if this figure is approved and the cost is over the \$42,000. Mr. Parent stated that Mr. Roy has some monies from fundraising that could be put toward it. There was a question on who would maintain and clean these restrooms. Mr. Parent stated that like Hovey Field which is maintained by Dracut Baseball, the Girls Softball League would maintain these bathrooms and they would only be opened when games were going on at the field.

Mr. Bond would like to move this project forward and made a motion to approve an article for Town Meeting in the amount of \$42,000 for the development of bathrooms at Monahan Field. Mr. Forcier seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Carrick Field – Mr. Parent stated they would like to be able to maintain Carrick Field and redesign it to better suit the needs of the Town’s recreation programs. Currently they have a 50/70 intermediate field at Dillon McAnespie and would like to design a 50/70 field (known as Field 1) at Carrick closer to the parking lot. By doing this it could allow the Town to have tournaments. At Field 2 in the back they would like to redesign it to make a utility field to use for things like flag football and add a tot lot in between the two fields. If there is room they would like to possibly add one tennis court and additional parking.

The Committee suggested that Recreation come back to them on this item to try and get a conceptual plan drawn to see what actually can fit and get a cost estimate for this work. This item will be tabled for the next CPC meeting.

4. Campbell School Basketball Courts – The Recreation Commission uses the courts at the Campbell School for their programs and realized the budget restraints on the Schools. The Commission would like to resurface the courts and the estimated cost would be \$7,500 to \$15,000.

Ms. Tremblay made a motion to approve an article for Town Meeting in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to resurface the basketball courts at Campbell School. Ms. Kawa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Drainage at Veteran’s Memorial Park – Request from Dracut Soccer Association – this item will be tabled until further information can be gathered with the Department of Public Works.

6. Hovey Field – Mr. Parent explained the Dracut Baseball Association maintains this field through donations and fees. He stated that the outfield has ruts and needs to be resurfaced. The Association has had discussions on the costs to re-lay the field and they have gotten an estimate of \$15,000. They have depleted their funds that they have raised from the Comedy Night and other fundraisers held on items at the field such as the slab behind the back stop and adding speakers at the field. They would also like to update the scoreboard as part of this \$15,000.

At Intervale Field and the Campbell School Field both those fields need an irrigation system, and the infield/outfield leveled along with new sod/hydro seeding. It doesn't make sense to do new sod or hydro-seeding if you don't add an irrigation system to keep it watered. At the Campbell field they also need to repair the fencing. The cost for these two fields would be \$25,000 each.

Mr. Hassan made a motion to approve an article for an amount not to exceed \$65,000 to re-lay Hovey Field and update the scoreboard, irrigate, level and re-sod Intervale and Campbell fields and repair existing fencing at Campbell. Mr. Malonis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Dillon McAnespie Basketball Courts – Would like to replace the 10' rim to an adjustable 8' rim for the first and second grade teams on Court 1 at a cost of \$3,000 each end, total \$6,000. Would like to replace both rims on Courts 2 & 3 from double rims to single rims, the double rims are more difficult to use and these changes will enhance the Recreation Programs; Estimated cost for single rims is \$200/each. Mr. Parent stated that they may be able to get assistance with replacing the pole from the DPW Department however if they need to hire someone they may need a little extra money in the request.

There was also a discussion on adding fixed benches for seating however after discussions it was determined that these may be a safety issue on Courts 1 & 2 and most parents bring chairs so they will hold off on this item.

Mr. Malonis made a motion to approve an article for new rims and poles at Dillon McAnespie Park for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Hassan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Mr. Parent stated that the backstop at Monahan Field needs replacement there are holes in them and they have been there for quite sometime. Currently he had no dollar figure to present. The Committee would like to table this item until they can get a quote for the cost of replacement.

Mr. Malonis also wanted to remind the Committee of the request by Mr. Graham back in October 2012 to remove and replace the track at the High School. In the information provided by Mr. Graham from Tracklite Systems it had costs to mill and pave the track. The total estimate was for \$140,000 and another \$55,000 for a total \$195,000.

The Committee discussed holding off while the construction project is currently going on and they were unsure if this estimate entails other areas at the track area. The Committee decided to table this item for future discussion.

Executive Session Minutes

The Committee discussed rescinding their vote to approve executive session minutes on the Hildreth Street properties due to the litigation issue.

Mr. Bond made a motion to rescind the vote to approve and release the minutes on 509 & 515 Hildreth Street made at the meeting on March 5, 2013. Ms. Tremblay seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Hassan abstaining.

Minutes

Mr. Hassan made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2013 as presented. Mr. Gagnon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Tremblay made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2013 as presented. Mr. Gagnon seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Hassan abstaining.

Update on Ski Tow Property – Arlington Street

Mr. Malonis stated he met with Mr. Piendak and Mr. Edwards this date to discuss the Burgess family property on Arlington Street known as the Ski Tow. Mr. Malonis explained the Committee's position to Mr. Piendak and he will be in touch with their Attorney, Attorney Negro to discuss the parcel.

Old Business

Mr. Bond asked about the status of a request he sent to Mr. Edwards regarding using some of the monies approved at Town Meeting on the Greenmont Avenue/Bridge Street property to demolish the Bridge Street property. The secretary will relay this to Mr. Edwards for a response.

Fox Parcel Update – Ms. Dunlap updated the Committee on the response she received from the Fox Family on preserving their property on Broadway Road. Ms. Dunlap will send the email to the secretary to bring to the next meeting.

New Business

Mr. Forcier asked why the Community Preservation Meetings aren't televised and cited tonight as a good example of one that should have been televised so that the residents of the Town can see what the Committee is trying to accomplish. Ms. Dunlap stated that they have televised the public information meetings when considering parcels before Town Meeting and cited an issue they had one time when a meeting was televised and they were discussing the possibility of purchasing the two properties on Hildreth Street to enhance Hovey Field and the next thing you know someone bought those properties. She stated that they have since tried to exercise more caution when televising meetings for discussion.

Adjourn

Mr. Bond made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Ms. Tremblay seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Helen Dunlop

John H. Hession

Narvey J. Gagnon

Rinda Kawa

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Jesse [Signature]

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