

**Community Preservation Committee
Minutes of March 5, 2013**

Members present: Chairperson Helen Dunlap, Brian Bond, Jesse Forcier, Harvey Gagnon, Louise Tremblay, 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 1660 Lakeview Avenue in the Historic Hall Dracut, MA.

Absent: John Hassan

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. She welcomed the audience to the meeting and had the folks present address the Committee.

Emile Demers of Dracut and Ed Smith of Tyngsboro were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Demers thanked the Committee for having them back to discuss the weed control at Long Pond further. Mr. Demers feels that if they do not preserve the lake now it won't be used in the future. Mr. Demers introduced Mr. Smith from Tyngsboro who is involved with Muscuppic Lake in Tyngsboro and dealing with the weed control at this pond. He brought a letter from Town Counsel for Tyngsboro whereas the control of weeds "might qualify as preservation of open space if necessary to prevent harm to a water body..." Mr. Smith explained that they use local contributions along with an allotment from CPA funding. They have a line item at Town Meeting that they get every year.

There was a discussion on boats bringing in weeds from other ponds if they are not washed. Currently they do not have a washing station to try and prevent this from happening at the ponds. There was a discussion on the houses around the lake using organic fertilizers to prevent runoff of harsh fertilizer into the pond as well. Ms. Kawa asked how long they thought they would need to use these funds to control the weeds. Mr. Smith stated that due to environmental changes he could not give an end date. There was a discussion as to the CPC reviewing this with the Board of Selectmen and it being brought before Town Meeting for approval. The estimated costs for weed control are \$12,000 to \$16,000 and they usually try to do the treatment before the weeds pollinate which is between May 12 and May 26. Mr. Smith stated due to his Town working on a fiscal year similar to Dracut he gets the funding in June for the following May.

The Committee would like to have a summary from Mr. Demers of what's been done to date for weed control and what they are looking for funding from the CPA funds and also show what contributions will also be made toward this effort on this summary so that when they present this to the Selectmen they have information for them.

Open Space Committee – Request for funding

Mr. Lania made a motion to take Open Space Committee out of order. Ms. Kawa seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Dave Sutherland, Mr. Bruce Cote and Mr. Emile Demers were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Sutherland explained they are on the Open Space Committee and they have opportunities to go to land conservation conferences put on by the State at an out of pocket cost to the member. He is inquiring as to whether any of those costs could be reimbursed using CPA funding. Ms. Dunlap stated that she spoke with the Community Preservation Coalition to inquire whether the cost for registration for these seminars could be funded with CPC funds. The answer she received was that if the topics covered at the conferences relate to the preservation of land and relates to community preservation issues it can be a covered expense from the fund. Mr. Cote also stated that they have presented their list of needs to Ms. Dunlap for Open Space and can discuss them also if the Committee would like. Ms. Dunlap stated that the Open Space Committee would be invited back to a public hearing to discuss the open space needs and possibilities list because the Committee is just seeing these for the first time tonight.

Mr. Cote provided the Committee with a packet of information relative to the 23rd Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference. Mr. Cote stated he is intending on participating in the 23rd Annual Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference on Saturday March 23, 2013 and the topics Mr. Cote was interested in are: Benefits of Land Conservation & Parks in Massachusetts; Raising your Voice on Community Issues and Organizing Successful Landscape-scale Conservation Projects. He stated the Committee could go online to see what topics they have and if they would like him to attend something else he would. Mr. Cote also mentioned the benefits of attending these conferences is you also talk with people from other communities and gain ideas and learn how they do things in their communities with Open Space and Conservation.

Mr. Malonis made a motion to authorize the expenditure to cover the cost of the conference registration and have Mr. Cote report back to the CPA Committee on conference topics and provide a summary for the Committee. Mr. Bond seconded the motion for discussion. There was a discussion on Mr. Cote having to cover the cost initially out of pocket and then put an expenditure request into the Town for reimbursement of the registration fee. The motion moved to a vote with all in favor.

Executive Session

Mr. Lania made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing possible land acquisition and litigation matters. Mr. Bond seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Mr. Gagnon – yes, Ms. Kawa – yes, Mr. Forcier – yes, Mr. Lania – yes, Ms. Dunlap – yes, Mr. Bond – yes, Ms. Tremblay – yes and Mr. Malonis – yes. It was noted that after the executive session the regular meeting will continue in open session to continue the agenda items.

The Committee entered into executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Mr. Bond made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. Ms. Kawa seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. By roll call vote: Mr. Gagnon – yes, Ms. Kawa – yes, Mr. Forcier – yes, Mr. Lania – yes, Ms. Dunlap – yes, Mr. Bond – yes, Ms. Tremblay – yes and Mr. Malonis – yes.

The Chairperson noted that one motion was made while in Executive Session.

Recreation Needs and Priorities list

Mr. Lania made a motion to take the needs and priorities of Recreation out of order. Mr. Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malonis stated that he received this list from Ms. Cahill and there is additional dialogue that needs to take place with the Recreation Commission regarding the needs. Mr. Malonis wanted to inform the Committee that they do not have all the items on this list and they will work on trying to get quotes for work to be done. There was a discussion on having the costs associated with some of these projects submitted at the same time so that when decisions to move forward with a project are made the Committee has some idea of the costs of the items.

There was a discussion on a list from the Historical Commission. It was stated that Mr. Paquin has a list and he will be presenting it to the Committee.

There was a discussion on having some of these groups in to discuss their needs and priorities lists. Mr. Forcier suggested keeping things moving because they are running up against time deadlines if they want to present an article to Town Meeting.

Mr. Forcier made a motion to invite Open Space, Recreation and Historical in to discuss their needs and priorities lists. Mr. Lania seconded for discussion. It was discussed that staff would send a memorandum to the Committees to invite them into the next CPC meeting and have them bring as much information with them on their suggested projects as possible. The motion moved to a vote with all in favor.

Dracut Grange – There was no update on the progress of the agreement between the Church and the Dracut Grange.

Preparation for Town Meeting – Video Project

Mr. Bond stated that he's making a little progress. He stated he has another volunteer to help with the video project that being Colleen Garry.

Executive Session Minutes

The Committee considered releasing the executive session minutes for 509 & 515 Hildreth Street and 144 Greenmont Avenue and 1530 Bridge Street.

The Committee went through the Meeting Minutes and made motions regarding the following executive session minutes:

06/21/2011 –BB, 2nd HG; 08/2/2011 – BB, 2nd KL; 09/06/2011 – BB, 2nd LT; 09/20/2011 – BB, 2nd HG; 10/18/2011 – BB, 2nd LT; 12/6/2011 – LT, 2nd HG; 03/6/2012 – LT, 2nd LK; 03/20/2012 – LT, 2nd HG; 06/19/2012 – LK, 2nd HG; 07/17/2012 – LK, 2nd KL; 08/07/2012 – LT, 2nd LK; 05/15/2012 – BB, 2nd LT; 06/05/2012 – BB, 2nd KL; 07/17/2012 – LK, 2nd LT; 09/04/2012 – LT, 2nd KL.

After making the motions Mr. Edwards stated we needed to check with Town Counsel due to the litigation on the Hildreth Street Properties and that those executive session minutes may need to still be held.

Old Business

Ms. Dunlap stated that letters will be going out on the Fox & Douglas Road Properties and she reminded the Committee if they haven't already done so to take the Ethics test. There was no update on the Kopacz Property.

Mr. Bond made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Lania seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

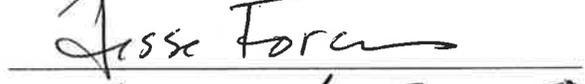


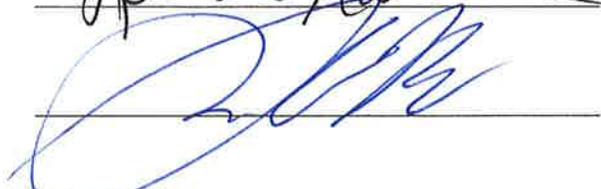














Absent: John Hassan _____