

SEEKONK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes – August 15, 2016

Present; John Alves, Susan Waddington, Priscilla Dunn, Willit Mason, Dan Sullivan, Dave Norton, Jim Tusino

Absent: Jason Adamonis, Richard Wallace (Con Com)

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Doug Benson, Chris Zorra

The meeting was called to order in the Town Hall large meeting room at 7:30 by chair, John Alves.

Reorganization of the committee: It was moved and seconded that the existing officers be reelected to their current posts. There was no discussion and the officers were elected unanimously. John Alves, chair; Richard Wallace, vice-chair; Susan Waddington, clerk.

Minutes of the June 13, 2016 were approved unanimously by those in attendance.

Doug Benson property: A majority of Committee members have now walked the land which is mostly upland, although currently landlocked and would require an easement for public use. To develop an easement, we would need to hire a Civil Engineer and notify all abutters who would then be able to express their opinions about an easement. The current appraised value is based on the lack of an easement. The Committee discussed various scenarios in which the land could be made available for development. The Committee feels that the land would make a good buffer zone against further development in the area. A motion to take bids for a formal appraisal was second and unanimously adopted. The Town Administrator will be asked to find an appraiser.

Applications:

1. An application will be coming from the Housing Authority for roof repair. It will request \$150,000 from CPA funds with additional funds coming from other sources. The Committee voted unanimously to accept the project for further study. A formal application will be needed by our September meeting in order to get it on the November town meeting warrant.

2. Arcade Trails project. An RFQ is to appear in the Sun Chronicle in on August 3 with a closing date of August 17.

Young Property: The Purchase and Sale agreement was signed by the Board of Selectmen on July 13, with a closing date in December.

Payment of dues to the Community Preservation Organization: Dues of \$1750 were unanimously approved given the services available to us.

CP-3 Report required by the state will be done by the Clerk.

Committee member comments: There was a general discussion about the usefulness of televising our meetings. Opinions ranged from the possibility of discouraging frank discussions to the possibility of producing more interest in the work of the Committee and thus more applications. Because we meet in various rooms as assigned, there would be no consistency in how TV coverage would be made available. In the end, it was voted 4 – 3 not to adopt televising at this point.

There was a discussion as to whether the Tribe would be able to restore Old Town Hall to its historic origins to satisfy National Historic Register requirements. Will it (the Tribe) be able to obtain grants and funds as indicated before the application was approved.

Chris Zorra asked how CPA funds are used and John Alves explained the state law that mandates our activities..

Next meeting: September 19, 2016.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Waddington, Clerk

