

SEEKONK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes August 19, 2019

Present: John Alves, Jim Troiano, David Sullivan, Willit Mason, Priscilla Dunn, Susan Waddington

Absent: Richard Wallace, Jim Tusino, Historical Preservation (no replacement for Dave Norton)

At 7:35 the regular meeting was called to order and immediately adjourned for our Annual Public Meeting. There were no members of the public present and we discussed the need for more general outreach for the Committee. David Sullivan suggested that we do a half hour TV show on Channel 9 and John said he would pursue it.

The Public Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 leading directly into our regular meeting.

MINUTES: The June 24th meeting minutes were approved by those in attendance with the correction of one typing error. This was followed by the approval of the July 1 Executive Session.

BERSON PROPERTY: There has been no change, although it seems likely that the owners will pursue a developer. Repaving of Pine Street would mean a five year delay.

David thinks that eminent domain is a possibility. It would not change funding. John will check with Stuart Saginor.

At this point it was mentioned that we need to be aware of the opening date for Town Meeting.

SEEKONK PLAYGROUND. Is Parks and Recreation still interested in the \$300,000 that the Committee voted to approve for the application that was withdrawn at Town Meeting. Jim Troiano reported that John Pozzi is working directly with the Town Administrator to see how best to proceed. Because of the expensive materials required this cannot be done with volunteer help.

BUTLER PROPERTY: There is still no progress. The necessity for a 21E assessment of toxic materials might be a factor.

NEW APPLICATIONS: None

AROUND THE TABLE:

Priscilla Dunn – The plan to install an extra meter does not seem to be progressing. David Sullivan suggested that we invite Jim Tusino and Rob Bernardo to the next meeting.

Willet Mason – Revisited the possibility of a bonding program or Trust Fund. There is also the possibility of a Conservation Trust. We could transfer some of the Unreserved Funds into it. David mentioned an Affordable Housing Trust. John explained that if the CPC was dissolved, bonding would continue. Dave will talk to the Community Preservation Organization about Affordable Housing.

John Alves – Old Town Hall was discussed. David Saad asked if it could be an Art Center. CPC funds for Historic Preservation cover buildings, but not programs. John also said that the Historic Preservation Circuit rider will help us to determine the best use of the building. This is another benefit of our membership in the Community Preservation Organization. The Smart Library is not old enough to qualify for Historic Preservation Funds, although many people have brought this topic up. John also reported that Richard Wallace is planning to attend more regularly. No replacement for Dave Norton has been made by the Historic Preservation Committee. John will speak to the Town Administrator about this.

Our next meeting will be October 7 and 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42.

Respectfully submitted

Susan R. Waddington

Clerk, Seekonk CPC