



Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Community Preservation Committee

Meeting Minutes, 7/20/06

Senior Center

Recorded by

Community Preservation Committee

Dan Buron
Recreation Commission

Peter Colombotos,
Vice Chair/Secretary
Master Plan Implementation
Committee

Steve Elliott
Planning Board

Judith Gabriel
Historic District Commission

Marilee Kenney Hunt, Chair
Citizen at large

Rick Kranes
Conservation Commission

David Moore
Housing Partnership

Max Reed
Capital Planning Committee

Bob Vazza, Treasurer
Housing Authority

Attendance:

Dan Buron—appointee from the Recreation Commission

—appointee from Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC)

Steve Elliott—appointee from the Planning Board

Marilee Kenney Hunt—Citizen member, appointed by the Board of Selectmen

Rick Kranes—appointee from Conservation Commission

David Moore—appointee from Housing Partnership

Max Reed—appointee from the Capital Planning Committee

Bob Vazza—appointee from the Housing Authority

Absent:

Judith Gabriel—appointee from Historic District Commission (HDC)

The meeting was called to order at 6:45

Meeting minutes

The minutes of the June 8^h meeting were approved unanimously

Committee composition

[Situation recap: The state statute establishing the Community Preservation Act requires membership of the local Historical Commission on Community Preservation Committees (CPC). Also, the membership of local CPC's is limited to 9. Bridgewater's by-law establishing the CPC specifies that the Historic District Commission (HDC) not the Historical Commission (HC) will be a mandatory member.]

Marilee reported that she received unanimous legal opinions from the Department of Revenue, The Community Preservation Coalition and Bridgewater's town counsel indicating that we do need to "fix" the composition of the Committee. However, all three assured her that the Committee as it is currently composed and all actions of the Committee thus far are legal. At the recommendation of the Department of Revenue's Chief Legal Counsel, Marilee suggested that we continue as we are currently configured through one funding cycle, then evaluate what the needs of the Committee are before deciding how to alter our composition. That would give sufficient time to propose a by-law change at the spring town meeting. Dan and Steve objected to that suggestion.

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Dave said he felt that the HDC could be removed from the Committee because even if it did not have a vote on the Committee, it would be well represented in the process given its control over any project in the historic district. Others agreed. Pete dissented, arguing that Committee members also have the power to advocate for a particular spending decision, that this is equally important. Marilee said she has spoken with Board of Selectman Chair Herb Lemon who requested that we keep the HDC on the Committee and look to another of the optional entities for removal.

Max spoke about the unlikely usefulness of the Capital Planning Committee on the Committee's. Since the Capital Planning Committee is an optional appointment he suggested it might be better to retain the HDC and remove Capital Planning. This same recommendation was given by Dave at June's meeting and Marilee stated that it is one with which Chair Lemon agrees.

Bob moved to replace the HDC on the Committee with the HC since the HC is legally required to have representation.. Steve seconded it. The motion carried five to three with Marilee, Max and Pete casting the dissenting votes Bob indicated that Paul Sullivan has already drafted an article for the next Special Town Meeting which is scheduled for August 22nd. The deadline for submission of warrant articles is this Monday, the 24th.

Financial Questions

Bob met with JoAnn O'Donnell, Doug Dorr and Paul Sullivan to review procedures relating fiscal issues. They indicated that the CPA is new to them too and that they too will be learning as they go along. JoAnn has largely recuperated from her illness and will be able to devote more time to it then she has. Bob mentioned that we must submit two articles for the warrant of the August 22nd Special Town Meeting: 1) an article to dispense \$15,000 for the Committee's administrative expenses and 2) a article to allocate 10% of the years revenues (including the state match) to each of the three required preservation areas.

Bob handed out a print-out of an email dated June 22nd from JoAnn indicating that \$349,000 was collected through the local surcharge. This number increased to \$353,941.04 at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2006. There were abatements of \$33.61 which yields a total of \$353,907.43. This money has generated interest of \$1,897.22. Bob wondered whether this total interest is lower than it should be. We expect these local revenues to be matched at 100% by the state.

Bob will work with Paul to get warrant articles drafted for these two items. Bob indicated that legally we should have allocated the required 10% before the end of fiscal year 2006 at the end of June. Apparently the state has granted a blanket waiver on this stipulation this year since so many town's did not comply. An article appropriating \$71,000 to each of the required preservation areas has been drafted and will, upon recommendation of the Committee, be presented to

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the Selectmen for the warrant. A motion was made to accept the draft and the vote carried unanimously. Bob will meet with town officials on Monday to make certain that the articles are given to the Selectmen for placement on the warrant. The Committee vote needs to be verified before it can go on the warrant so Pete will type up the minutes of the meeting over the weekend and e-mail them to the Committee members to assure accuracy. Although the minutes cannot be officially approved through an “e-vote,” it is our hope that the writing and circulation among membership will be sufficient to allow the articles to be placed on the warrant. Bob mentioned that the Committee must submit a Community Preservation Initiatives Report by August 15th. It is apparently a simple, routine matter.

Marilee raised the question of how the grants will be handled. Will they be cost reimbursement or up-front cash awards that will require accounting at the end of the grant period? How will we monitor the grants? A conclusion was not determined.

61A Lists

Rick, Dan and Pete procured a spreadsheet of 61A parcels in town. Rick pointed out how we can use the town’s Online Property Viewer to research the parcels. The three will split up the list and do so. The Committee agreed that it is important to have the list prioritized so that the town can act quickly to use CPA funds to preserve them if they become available. It was noted that the town’s Open Space Committee should have this work done but, although they have been appointed for some time now, they have not yet met.

Public Meeting subcommittee report

Pete and Steve remarked that the Committee must hold one public hearing annually and that all our meetings must adhere to the public meeting law. Pete reminded the Committee that we are planning a public informational meeting for Monday October 2nd, 2006. Pete will call Lisa Sullivan to reserve the Senior Center and contact BTV to broadcast it. At that meeting, we will introduce the application process and, hopefully, conduct a visioning process to see what ideas people have. Pete suggested we undertake broad publicity campaign in September. Pete said he will work on edits for the web site.

Applications Form Report

The Committee was not able to vote on the full application because Marilee’s draft didn’t go through as an attachment in her email. She will have it ready for a vote for the next meeting.

Pete wasn’t able to procure an example of an expedited application form that an applicant could use to streamline an emergency application. The Committee

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discussed the need for such an application and decided it need not differ much from the conventional application. Perhaps an emergency clause added to the conventional application would suffice.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday August 17th at 6:30. Pete will not be able to attend. Rick will take notes.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.