

Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of October 27, 2021

Present: Allen Hanson, Rita Farrell, Linda Avis Scott, Michael DeChiara

Absent: Elaine Puleo

Public: Matteo Pangallo, Henry Geddes. Mary Lou Conca and Leslie Bracebridge joined the meeting while it was underway.

MINUTES

Minutes of the October 5, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Rita moved to approve; Michael seconded. Unanimous approval: Hanson – aye, Farrell – aye, Scott – aye, DeChiara – aye.

Linda reported that it is likely that no one took minutes for the May 5, 2021 CPC meeting. She will follow-up with the Town Clerk to locate the Zoom recording so that minutes can be created.

NEW MEMBER

Matteo Pangallo responded to the announcement for a new Community At-Large member ; Allen invited him to present to the committee. Matteo provided information on his background and interest. While he has rented in Shutesbury in recent years, he and his family have recently purchased a home and he is looking forward to “giving back” to the community. He has a background in cultural, historical, artistic, and environmental causes, and is skilled in budgeting and budget evaluation, public relations, program development and planning, and project management.

Rita moved to recommend Matteo Pangallo to the Select Board for appointment as the CPC Community At-Large member. Michael seconded. Unanimous approval: Hanson – aye, Farrell – aye, Scott – aye, DeChiara – aye

Henry Geddes informed the committee that the Historical Commission, of which he is the Chair, voted for him to be the CPC representative from that committee.

Linda will arrange for the Select Board to make appointments of Matteo and Henry to the CPC at its November 9, 2021 meeting.

Michael informed the committee that he was resigning as co-Chair of the CPC. In discussing this decision previously with Allen, Michael committed to continuing to do whatever work was necessary to support the CPC.

PELHAM HILL/PEARSON LAND DISCUSSION

Allen presented information about the 34 acre parcel on Pelham Hill Road near Baker Road that is up for sale by Wendy Pearson. Jeff Lacy (not able to be present at the meeting) has introduced the idea that Shutesbury, along with Kestrel Trust and the Town of Amherst, might purchase the land for conservation purposes. Allen was interested in the CPC’s position on this.

Members indicated that offering a position of support or non-support was premature and that

the CPC would be looking for guidance from the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee. In particular, do these committees think this parcel is a priority for Shutesbury? It was also mentioned any CPC project needs official town sponsorship and guidance from committees with expertise and accountability the proposed project, so engaging these committees is important for the application process.

Generally, there was acknowledgement that based on the Open Space CPA criteria, securing this land for conservation would likely be deemed eligible but a Determination of Eligibility form will need to be submitted by Dec. 10.

Allen reminded the committee that Jeff is looking to do a site visit for the CPC, Conservation Committee, Open Space Committee, Kestrel Trust and Town of Amherst. Rita suggested that Amherst CPC money can be used to help acquire the land since this would help protect Amherst drinking water.

CPC WEBPAGE

Michael updated the committee on his updates of the CPC webpage. He was guided by the goal of making information more accessible to users, especially people interested in applying for a CPA grant or who wanted to review CPA funded projects. There was general support for the updates to the webpage.

Michael will upload the 2022 CPC Plan and complete listings (with photos) of previous projects.

2022 CPC PLAN

Michael moved and Rita seconded to approve the 2022 CPC Plan. Unanimous approval: Hanson – aye, Farrell – aye, Scott – aye, DeChiara – aye

UNANTICIPATED TOPICS

Michael raised the issue that some residents have voiced an interest via NextDoor Shutesbury in ending the CPA program in Shutesbury. It was noted by members that it was unclear whether this was an interest in removing the entire CPA program from Shutesbury or changing the CPA percentage charged on real estate transactions. The committee agreed to monitor this issue in advance of Town Meeting.

Henry informed the committee that the Historical Commission has several ideas for CPA projects. He asked how best to share these with the CPC in advance so the Commission can get a sense of eligibility. It was recommended that the Historical Commission ideas be presented at the Nov. 18, 2021 CPC meeting. Henry was reminded that the deadline for submitting a Determination of Eligibility form will be Dec. 10, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Michael moved to adjourn. Rita seconded. Unanimous approval: Hanson – aye, Farrell – aye, Scott – aye, DeChiara – aye. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michael DeChiara