

Shutesbury Community Preservation Committee
March 17, 2022 Virtual Meeting Platform

CPC members present: Allen Hanson/Chair, Rita Farrell, Michael DeChiara, Matteo Pangallo, and Linda Avis Scott

CPC members absent: Elaine Puleo and Henry Geddes

Guests: Frank McGinn, Amanda Reelman, Joan Hanson, Ria Windcaller, and Tom Siefert

It is decided that Farrell will chair the meeting because Hanson will need to recuse himself from the discussion relative to the acquisition of Lot R-15/Pelham Hill Road.

Farrell calls the meeting to order at 7:01pm and reviews the agenda; in light of the 3.10.22 public hearing, there will be a limited time for questions.

DeChiara moves and Pangallo seconds a motion to approve the 2.17.22 meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Scott: aye, DeChiara: aye, Pangallo: aye, Hanson: aye and Farrell: aye; the 2.17.22 minutes are approved as presented.

DeChiara moves and Scott seconds a motion to approve the 3.10.22 meeting minutes. A friendly amendment is made to correct the spelling of Kestrel. Roll call vote: Scott: aye, DeChiara: aye, Pangallo: aye, Hanson: aye, and Farrell: aye; the minutes are approved as presented.

Farrell reports that the termination policy remains pending review by Town Counsel Donna MacNicol.

Three projects will be considered for recommendation to annual town meeting; each application was determined to be eligible; final applications were presented during the 3.10.22 public hearing when the applicants were present to answer questions. It is noted that questions/comments may be made on the applications during annual town meeting.

Hanson: as an across the road abutter to Lot R-15, he will recuse himself from this discussion by leaving that portion of the meeting.

1. Historic Guideboard Restoration/Historical Commission: DeChiara moves and Hanson seconds a motion to recommend to annual town meeting the use of \$10,000 in CPC Historic funds for the restoration of the historic guideboard. Roll call vote: Scott: aye, Pangallo: aye, Hanson: aye, DeChiara: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.
2. Ames Pond Project/Kestrel Land Trust: The project is located on the former Julian Janowitz property; phase one will improve the parking and entrance area; later, phase two will create an accessible trail. Kestrel will work on wetland permitting with the Shutesbury Conservation Commission. DeChiara moves and Scott seconds a motion to recommend to annual town meeting the use of \$20,000 in CPC recreation funds for improvements to the Ames Pond site. Ria Windcaller: as Janowitz's closest neighbor, has mowed and plowed the parking area, knows the land well and is willing to help. Per Windcaller, just north of the parking area is a very wet area that floods in the spring; the area will have value to the Town though will require more road maintenance; recommends signage "If parking is full, please come

back; she does not want to see the narrow road tarred. Farrell explains that the CPC's role is recommending projects to annual town meeting; due to the proximity to wetlands, Kestrel will be working with the Conservation Commission on the permitting process after 7.1.22 if town meeting approves the project. DeChiara: Kestrel is working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation on the number of parking spaces. Pangallo: \$8,000 of the requested funds will be for parking; the remaining funds (\$15,900) is for an accessible trail and viewing platform. Tom Siefert appreciates Windcaller's comments; he and Frank McGinn are also abutters to the former Janowitz property; is excited that the site will be cared for by Kestrel and has been in touch with Chris Volonte/Kestrel Land Trust; the wetland application will require abutter notification. Siefert requests CPC member Hanson to recuse himself from voting on this application because they are both parties to a lawsuit; Hanson's vote may affect the value of his property. Hanson states that he has no comment. Siefert: per Mass. General Law, it is an ethics conflict if an official is involved in a lawsuit. DeChiara: the CPC will have a voting quorum if Hanson is recused. Hanson agrees to recuse himself from voting on this project. Windcaller, Siefert and McGinn will followup with Kestrel Land Trust. DeChiara will post the current applications on the CPC webpage. Roll call vote: Scott: aye, Pangallo: aye, DeChiara: aye and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

3. Lot R-15 Pelham Hill Road (Pearson)/Kestrel Land Trust & Conservation Commission: A combination of funds from Kestrel, the Conservation Commission Trust Fund, and a request for a total of \$50,000 in CPC funds will be used to purchase this parcel. The CPC fund request is for \$45,000/Open Space to be used for acquisition and soft costs, i.e., appraisal, survey, etc., and \$5,000/Recreation to be used to create parking. As an across the street abutter to this parcel, Hanson recuses himself and leaves the meeting at 7:37pm for the vote. DeChiara moves and Pangallo seconds a motion to approve the request for the use of \$5,000 in Recreation funds and \$45,000 in Open Space funds for the acquisition of Lot R-15/Pearson. Roll call vote: Scott: aye, DeChiara: aye, Pangallo: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

Hanson has returned to the meeting. The termination policy, intra-municipal agreement, annual town meeting warrant articles, including one to address the change of site for the community garden from behind Town Hall to Lot O-32, will be considered during the 4.21.22 meeting. Farrell responded to the Worthington inquiry about adopting the Community Preservation Act.

At 7:50pm, DeChiara moves and Hanson seconds a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Scott: aye, Pangallo: aye, DeChiara: aye, Hanson: aye, and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Avis Scott