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2017 NOV -8 PM 1:55

Town of Ayer

Community Preservation Committee

Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432 Minutes for 9/1/2017 9/6/2017 95.1

Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor

Members present: Janet Providakes (JP) [Housing Authority]- Chair, Beth Suedmeyer (BAS) [At Large], Richard Durand (RD) [Parks & Recreation], Jess Gugino (JG) [Conservation Commission]- Clerk, Julie Murray (JM) [At Large]

Not present: Barry Schwarzel (BES) [Historical Commission], Mark Fermanian (MF) [Planning]

APAC taped: NO

6:19 PM - Open Meeting

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- O JG moved to approve the minutes for 8/2/2017 as written; RD 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

Correspondence

Community Preservation Coalition

- JP prepared descriptions of Ayer CPA projects for Coalition use on social media.
 - The two projects JP selected are the Pleasant Street School renovation and the more recent Habitat for Humanity housing on Central Avenue.

Old Business

Community Preservation 5-Year Plan

- JP has contacted Jen Goldson, who prepared the 2010-2014 plan, for her availability in preparing a new 5-year Plan.
 - Ms. Goldson indicated informally that her cost would be approximately \$20,000, depending on the scope of work.
 - She is preparing something more formal in response to JP's query about what sort of scope she envisioned.
 - BAS, who was on CPC when Ms. Goldson did the previous Plan, will find her copy of the original scope as well.
- JP also has contacted the Community Opportunities Group (COG), which is currently working on the Town's new Master Plan.
 - They presented a more formal quote of \$12,000, for a scope of services for two phases of work that would include 2-3 working meetings and a public forum.
 - O Phase I: Identifying community needs and resources;
 - Phase II: Prioritizing Community Preservation funds.
- CPC members felt it important to have detailed scopes of services for both vendors for accurate comparison.



Town of Aver

Comments of Conservation Conservation

- Conservation Street Associated Conservation

- Conservation for P\$2017 - P\$25200 - P\$2500 - P\$250

Location Town Hall 1" Flore

Montiors grevent Janet Powidakes (JP) [Hensing Authority]- Chair. Both Suedmeyer (BAS) [At Large], Richard Ducent (MDV) [Under & Recreation Less Copins (CO) [Conservation Commission]- Clork Julie Murray (M) [UL augs]

Not present their Schoutet (SUS) Historical Commission). Mark Lementan (MF) [Planning] APAC reped: NO

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- JP also plans to follow up with some other vendor recommendations from Stuart Saginor, of the Community Preservation Coalition.
- In addition, Alan Manouian, Director of Ayer Community & Economic Development, may also be able to provide JP with some names.
- Finally, JP will check with Town Accountant Lisa Gabree to ascertain the mechanics of funding this project, including whether CPC would need a Town Meeting vote.

Conservation Fund

- JP has spoken to Town Administrator Robert Pontbriand about the possibility of setting up such a fund to allow for more a expeditious response to open space purchase possibilities.
 - JP will follow up with Mr. Pontbriand regarding the Board of Selectmen's response to this idea.

Master Plan Update

- JP attended a recent meeting of the Steering Committee, where a draft of the Housing packet portion was reviewed.
- JP noted that the draft includes a 2014 chart from DHCD (Mass. Dept. of Housing & Community Development) showing the proportion of Ayer housing that is designated as "affordable."
 - The 2014 chart indicated that 8.4% of Ayer's housing inventory has been subsidized for affordability (where 10% is the State goal).
 - In the draft, however, COG (Community Opportunities Group) has amended this number to 6% because, at some point in the future, Ayer will be losing some of the housing designated as affordable (11 units changing over to market value).
 - JP represented the position that the citation and use of the 2014 DHCD chart should continue to use the 2014 number of 8.4%.
 - Supporting text can additionally note updates/future revisions because of changes in DHCD's reckoning.
 - Such a revision should not only reference the 11 units likely to go off of Ayer's affordable housing inventory, but also additional units recently added (since 2014) to this inventory (i.e. Habitat for Humanity; the Willows subdivision).
 - o But the 2014 chart should remain as DHCD created it in 2014.

CPA Surcharge

As previously discussed on 8/2/2017 and for comparison's sake, CPC members asked for information on the revenue numbers were Ayer to go to the 2% property tax surcharge from the current 1% surcharge.



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- At 1%, CPC's total revenue (Town surcharge tax + State match) is approximately \$207,000.
- A rise to the 2% surcharge would simply double the total revenue to approximately \$414,000.
- Were the Town to agree to a rise to the 3% surcharge, the total revenue would rise by a greater proportional amount to approximately \$686,000.
 - At the 3% surcharge rate, participating towns qualify for an additional round of State funding not available at the 1 or 2% rates.
 - Thus this could lead to an additional \$75,000, roughly, in State matching funds, a substantial increased benefit to the 1 or 2% surcharge rates.

CPC Old Account Balances

- Town Accountant Lisa Gabree contacted JP about closing out outstanding balances from old CPC allocation accounts:
- Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) update
 - \$23,500 remains from the original CPA allocation...
 - BAS said the OSRP plan is currently waiting for the DPW's part-time intern, who does GIS mapping, to complete map work for the plan.
 - Until this work has been completed (which doesn't cost OSRP anything since it is a Town employee), BAS did not want CPC to close out this outstanding balance.
 - o If the intern is unable to complete the map work, OSRP might need to hire someone.
- Pleasant Street School pocket park
 - This account contains an outstanding unspent balance of \$13,203.75.
 - JP will ask that this account be left in place as some tree work still remains to be done.
- Sandy Pond School Association (SPSA)
 - The amount of \$2673.75 (out of \$20,000) remains from the CPC allocation for the historic schoolhouse's Conditions Assessment.
 - As the Assessment is now complete and paid for, this remainder should be returned to CPC's regular balances (from the category from which it came, assumed to be 'Historic').

New Business

 RD related that Jeff Thomas, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Jason Mayo, Chair of the Park Commission, have expressed renewed interest in the Town potentially acquiring the West Main Street property owned by Robert Gardner, for use as a pocket park.



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- While CPC would welcome an application for CPA funding for such a project, the first step would be for Mr. Mayo or Mr. Thomas to contact Mr. Gardner to see if he would be open to the possibility of selling this property to the Town.
 - BAS said Mr. Gardner should be made aware of the tax benefits available for selling a parcel to a municipality for under market value.
 - JG said this property appeared before the ZBA earlier in the summer for a variance, and that therefore Parks & Recreation should endeavor to contact Mr. Gardner as soon as possible.

• Committee Updates

- Historical Commission (BES)
 - No update.
- Housing Authority (JP)
 - No update Housing doesn't meet over the summer.
- Parks & Recreation (RD)
 - See above under New Business.
 - In addition, RD said DPW Superintendent Mark Wetzel is now working on the engineering aspects for the planned Pirone Park Perimeter Path.
 - Mr. Wetzel is also assisting with the development of plans for construction of a new building at the park to house sporting equipment, tractors, etc.
 - Previously Parks & Rec stored equipment at the Old Fire Station, no longer available.
- Conservation Commission (JG)
 - ConCom continues its job search for a new Conservation Administrator.
- Planning Board
 - No update.
- Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee (BAS)
 - See above discussion under Old Account Balances.

• 7:19 PM – Adjourn Meeting

- o CPC's Next Meeting: October 4, 6 p.m.
- o JG moved to adjourn; JM 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jessica G. Gugino, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved by Community Preservation Committee: //-1-201/
Signature Indicating Approval:



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