



Town of Ayer
Community Preservation Committee
Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432
Minutes for 4/7/2021

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TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK
3 pages

Location: Remote Meeting via Zoom, accessible to public, due to Pandemic State of Emergency

Members present: Janet Providakes (JP) [Housing Authority]- Chair, Julie Murray (JUM) [Planning Board] – Vice-Chair, Beth Suedmeyer (BAS) [At Large], Jason Mayo (JAM) [Parks & Recreation], Colleen Krieser (CK)[At Large], Jess Gugino (JG) [Conservation Commission]- Clerk

Not present: Barry Schwarzel (BES) [Historical Commission]

APAC Taped and Broadcast Live

7:05 PM – Open Meeting

- Throughout the meeting, JP periodically invited input (questions or comments) from members of the public viewing the meeting remotely (via Zoom or live broadcast), and calling in to participate either by Zoom or telephone connection.
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - CK moved to accept the minutes for 3/3/2021 as written; JUM 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously by Roll Call Vote 5-0 (JAM abstained).
- **CURRENT BUSINESS**
 - **Annual Spring Town Meeting (Monday, April 26, 2021)**
 - JP reviewed the two CPC articles that will be on the Town Warrant – Articles 24 and 25.
 - The dispersal of funds article is using the amount of \$844,796:
 - \$667,796 raised from the 3% CPC surcharge;
 - \$177,000 from the State's matching funds from the first round.
 - JP plans to say a few words at Town Meeting thanking residents for the recent surcharge increase.
 - **Annual Town Report**
 - JP went ahead and submitted an updated CPC annual report for the year to Town Manager Robert Pontbriand.
 - She included a sentence acknowledging the memory of former CPC member Richard Durand and his many contributions to the Town.
 - **Updating the Community Preservation Plan (CPP)**
 - JP has not had a chance to follow-up with Jen Goldson or the Community Opportunities Group.
 - She is also waiting to hear from the Town Planner with a suggestion of a third vendor CPC could provide with a Scope of Work and solicit a bid from.

 **SCANNED**

05.24.2021 ✓



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- JUM will follow-up on that.

- **Committee Updates**

- Historical Commission (BES)
 - No report.
- Housing Authority & Affordable Housing Committee (JP)
 - The Housing Authority has not met.
 - The Affordable Housing Committee has received 9 applications so far, with up to 6 more potential applications coming, for consideration for appointment to the Board of Trustees for the Housing Trust.
- Parks & Recreation (JAM)
 - It is looking as if the Parks Department will be open for 'business as usual' this summer.
 - It is likely, though not certain, that the Town Beach will be open, with pandemic restrictions for distancing in particular in place.
 - Spring sports season and summer camps, also modified with distancing restrictions, are in the works.
 - They are also working with the Library on creating a 'storybook walk' along the Perimeter Path in Pirone Park.
 - Copyright issues have to be worked out.
 - BAS asked JAM if there were plans for the playground replacement in the Park.
 - JAM said the Parks Department lost their impetus during the pandemic.
 - It will cost \$12-15,000 to do a feasibility study, which they hope to do in the next year or two depending on their capital budget.
 - JP reminded JAM that CPC funding can be used for things like paying for a feasibility study or remediation work.
- Conservation Commission (JG)
 - ConCom just had a contract signed for 2021 weed control treatments on the ponds.
 - ConCom was also able to submit a grant proposal to the Nashua River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council.
 - Much of the work on the grant proposal was thanks to the great volunteer contribution of resident Faith Salter, working with Jo-Anne Crystoff, the Conservation Agent.
 - BAS, who is on the Stewardship Council, said they have received 7 grant applications but have not yet begun reviewing them.



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- ConCom's Agent Crystoff has also been working with the Library in creating a 'poetry' trail on the Town's conservation land.
- ConCom is also getting slammed with numerous applications, including for a building addition at Catania Spagna and renovations at the McDonald's.
 - In addition, several new subdivisions will eventually be sending applications through ConCom.
- Planning Board (JUM)
 - JUM said that, like ConCom, the Planning Board is also in the process of reviewing the plans for Catania and McDonald's, and also new subdivisions.
- Nashua River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council, Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (BAS)
 - Nothing to report on Open Space & Recreation Plan.
 - BAS said that, in addition to reviewing grant applications, the Stewardship Council is also involved with applying for federal funding under the Forest Legacy Program.
 - This effort is being led by Al Futterman (Nashua River Watershed Association), and in addition to the Stewardship Council, land trusts such as North County Land Trust are also participating.
 - The Forest Legacy Program helps with preserving large amounts of forest to support regional conservation efforts.
 - This program has a minimum land-volume threshold for an application, though fortunately tracts of forest do not all have to be contiguous.
- **7:39 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - CPC's Next Meeting: May 5, 2021, 7 p.m.
 - BAS moved to adjourn; JAM 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jessica G. Gugino, Clerk

Date / Signature Indicating Approval: _____

5/5/2021 *Jessica G. Gugino*