

Town of Ayer
Community Preservation Committee
Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432
Minutes for 5/5/2021

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, Barry Schwarzel (BES) [Historical Commission], Jason Mayo (JAM) [Parks & Recreation], Colleen Krieser (CK)[At Large], Jess Gugino (JG) [Conservation Commission]- Clerk

Not present: Beth Suedmeyer (BAS) [At Large]

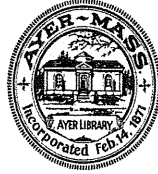
APAC Taped and Broadcast Live

7:03 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**
 - JUM moved to accept the minutes for 4/7/2021 as written; CK 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously by Roll Call Vote 5-0 (BES abstained, not having been present).
- **Correspondence / Bills**
 - Ayer Community Garden (\$41,000, STM 2019)
 - The Community Garden will now be operating permanently under the nonprofit (501c3) umbrella of Growing Places, in Leominster.
 - As such, invoices for the Community Garden must now go to Growing Places directly for payment.
 - The bill amounts will then be submitted to the Town for reimbursement to Growing Places from the CPC grant money.

CURRENT BUSINESS

- **Updating the 5-Year Community Preservation Plan (CPP)**
 - In response to the Scope of Work, JP heard from consultant Jenn Goldson who will be submitting a bid quote shortly.
 - Responding to the same Scope of Work, JP also heard from the Community Opportunities Group (COG).
 - COG wanted to know what CPC had for a budget.
 - After discussion, it was decided that providing that information would disadvantage the other potential bidder, Ms. Goldson.



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- JP said she also expected that potential bids for this project should show a reduction in cost from when CPC last explored this in 2017, for two reasons:
 - several other completed and updated town reports now exist that can be drawn from (i.e. the Master Plan, the Open Space Recreation Plan);
 - since meetings are currently held remotely via Zoom, this should impact the reduction of travel costs.
- **Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees**
 - JP said the Select Board appointed on the night before (5/4) 6 members for the 7-member Board of Trustees:
 - Colleen Kreiser was appointed to represent CPC;
 - Geoff Tillotson was appointed to represent the Planning Board;
 - Scott Copeland was appointed to represent the Select Board;
 - Cyndi Lavin was appointed as an At-Large member;
 - Jennifer Cali was appointed as an At-Large member;
 - Jake Driscoll was appointed as an At-Large member.
 - The 7th member, representing the Affordable Housing Committee, has yet to be appointed.
- **Committee Updates**
 - Planning Board (JUM)
 - As noted above, the Planning Board appointed Geoff Tillotson as its representative on the Board of Trustees for the Affordable Housing Trust.
 - The Board continues to hold Public Hearings for projects at Catania Oils, McDonald's, and several upcoming subdivisions.
 - Historical Commission (BES)
 - The Ayer Commission's grant application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission was approved, per notification from Michael Steinitz.
 - The \$12,500 grant will be used for the Historic Resources Inventory, along with the \$20,000 CPC grant for this project that was approved at Spring Town Meeting 2020.
 - The Commission will now be in a position to hire a consultant for this project.
 - Member Maggie Durand is spearheading a new project for the Commission: participating in the "Massachusetts Memories Road Show."
 - This is a participatory open archives project through UMass Boston.



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- Members of a community are invited to bring photographs and stories about the photos, whatever they think is important to them or their town/community.
- The UMass Road Show brings scanning equipment, etc., and can usually get all submissions digitized for the archive in one day.
- BES said it has been difficult to complete the oral history project, and that this would be a great alternative.
- It will take some time arrange for the Road Show – this fall might be possible but probably later than that.
 - BES will send JP details for looking at the website for other towns who've already done this.
- Housing Authority & Affordable Housing Committee (JP)
 - See above, under Current Business.
- Parks & Recreation (JAM)
 - JAM reported that the night before (5/4), for the first time since 2019, all of the playing fields at Pirone Park were in active use, a sign of some return to normalcy given the pandemic.
 - In addition, the Parks Department received a permit from the Board of Health to operate the Town Beach this year.
 - It will open on time, with distancing rules and other policies to keep the beach safe.
 - A meeting will be held the following night (5/6) to determine whether a 'residents only' policy should be enacted for this year as well.
 - JP noted that at the Select Board meeting the night before, they had discussed the bathhouse building at the Town Beach.
 - JAM said this was on the Parks Department's radar as well.
 - Unfortunately it cannot be renovated since it would need to be ADA compliant, so would likely need to be torn down and rebuilt.
 - JP will look into whether CPC funding could be used.
 - JAM also noted, and CPC members agreed, what a great job Jeff Thomas does as Ayer Parks Director, and what an asset he is to the town.
- Conservation Commission (JG)
 - ConCom was successful in its bid to apply for a community grant to develop and install waterways-related signage.
 - The grant was awarded by the Nashua River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council.



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- Insofar as its regular work continues, ConCom is swamped with reviewing projects and new applications, same as the Planning Board.
- In response to JP's question about any plans for use of the Conservation Trust for open space land purchases, JG said the Commission, through its agent Jo-Anne Crystoff, has several irons in the fire but these things take time and pieces have to fall in place for certain possibilities.
- Nashua River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council, Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (BAS)
 - No report.
- **7:36 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - CPC's Next Meeting: June 2, 2021, 7 p.m.
 - BES moved to adjourn; JUM 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jessica G. Gugino, Clerk

Date / Signature Indicating Approval:

6/2/2021 Jessica T. Gugino