

**Town of Ayer**  
**Community Preservation Committee**

Town Hall \* One Main Street \* Ayer, MA 01432

Minutes for 6/1/2016 - Approved 7/6/2016

Location: Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

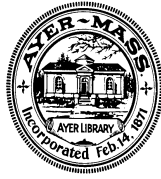
Members present: Janet Providakes (JP) [Housing Authority]- Chair, Beth Suedmeyer (BAS) [At Large], Barry Schwarzel (BES) [Historical Commission], Richard Durand (RD) [Parks & Recreation], Jess Gugino (JG) [Conservation Commission]- Clerk

Not present: Vacancy [Planning Board], Vacancy [At Large]

APAC taped: NO

**6:10 PM – Open Meeting**

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - BES moved to accept the minutes for 4/6/2016 as written; RD 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
  - Note: CPC did not hold a meeting in May.
- **Correspondence**
  - JP passed on magazine material from the Conway School of Landscape Design to BAS.
    - BAS is Chair of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee.
    - Students from the Conway School prepared an initial draft of an OSRP for the committee.
- **Old Business**
  - Sandy Pond School Association
    - Spring Town Meeting passed the CPC funding request for SPSA's Conditions Assessment project.
    - JP provided Irv Rockwell, Vice President of the SPSA, with the proper wording regarding procurement.
      - Because of the highly specialized nature of the restoration work, SPSA was unable to secure 3 bids for the project.
    - At BAS's request, JP will draft a Grant Agreement between CPC and SPSA.
  - CPC Application Review
    - JG is still working on revisions to the CPC application packet.
- **New Business**
  - CPC website
    - JP is editing and making corrections to the current information available on CPC's Town website.
  - Planning Board representative



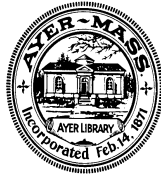
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- Jeremy Callahan has moved out of town and is no longer Chair or a Member of the PB.
- JP will talk to the new Chair, Jim Fay, to again ask that the PB appoint a representative to CPC.
  - JG expressed the fond wish that said representative would actually attend CPC meetings.
  - It was noted that the last time an appointed representative from the PB attended a CPC meeting was May 2015.
- Nashua Street Extension and Chapter 61
  - BAS said the Town has now received formal notice that portions of the Nashua Street Extension, planned for development by Calvin Moore, are now being taken out of Ch. 61.
    - Ch. 61 is a State tax-relief program for properties used for agricultural or forestry purposes.
    - The Town must be given the 'right-of-first-refusal' when bringing a property out of this status.
  - The notice received by the Town from the property owner last week initiates a 120-day period in which the property can be appraised and the Town given the opportunity to purchase at fair market value.
    - BAS noted the favorable proximity of this land to both the downtown and the schools on Washington Street.
  - BAS said the OSRP Committee is sending a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending the Town proceed with an appraisal and that the BOS appoint a committee to review.
    - She asked if CPC would send a similar letter of support.
    - RD moved that CPC generate a letter of support; BES 2<sup>nd</sup>.
      - Motion approved unanimously.
    - BAS will draft a letter.
- Riley Jayne Farm
  - BAS said that another development, at the end of Pleasant Street, will be before the PB the following night (6/2).
  - She is hoping to encourage the PB to negotiate a trail easement that might make possible a walking trail from the downtown area to the schools.
- **Committee Updates**
  - Historical Commission
    - BES described the "Walk in Ayer" that took place on 5/14 as part of Freedom's Way's *Hidden Treasures* weekend.

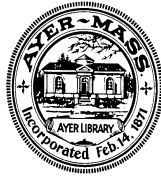


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- It wasn't well attended and discussion focused on the lack of publicity as well as Freedom's Way cramming multiple Hidden Treasures programs into a short period of time.
- During the program, BES provided historical background on Dr. James Cook Ayer.
  - He also brought in to CPC samples of some of Dr. Cook's elixir bottles that BES used during the program.
    - These included "Hair Vigor," "Cherry Pectoral," and Dr. Ayer's "Ague Cure."
  - BES also showed CPC an edition of "Ayers American Almanac 1874."
- Housing Authority
  - Work has started on installing a generator for the senior housing and Council on Aging on Pond Street.
- Parks & Recreation
  - *Town Beach*
    - RD described changes to the parking policy at the Sandy Pond Town Beach.
      - These changes were made in response to complaints from Town residents regarding overcrowding and the lack of parking spaces for residents from non-resident use.
    - Starting 5/28, non-residents are to be charged \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, for daily use.
      - An attendant will be stationed at the entrance gate
      - Residents will not be charged a fee but will need to show proof of residency before entering the gate.
    - The lower parking lot on Snake Hill Road is now restricted to Ayer residents, and a sticker showing residency will be required to park there.
      - The sticker is available at Town Hall.
    - The upper lot along Sandy Pond Road remains open to the general public.
    - Fees generated by this change in policy will be used to offset costs of maintaining the facility.
  - *4<sup>th</sup> of July*
    - The Town's celebration of the holiday – parade and fireworks – will take place on Saturday, 7/2.
- Conservation Commission
  - ConCom is working on developing a pond water testing program.



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- It is also finishing up its review of Geosyntec's final draft of the Pond Survey.
- Planning Board
  - No representative, no report.
- Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee
  - OSRP continues to work on editing the draft plan.
- **7:19 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
  - CPC's Next Meeting: July 6, 6 p.m.
  - BES moved to adjourn; RD 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.