



RECEIVED
OCT 16 2019
TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK
1:52 pm *lf*

Town of Ayer
Community Preservation Committee
Town Hall * One Main Street * Ayer, MA 01432
Minutes for 9/4/2019

Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor

Members present: Janet Providakes (JP) [Housing Authority]- Chair, Beth Suedmeyer (BAS) [At Large], Barry Schwarzel (BES) [Historical Commission], Jess Gugino (JG) [Conservation Commission]- Clerk, Julie Murray (JM) [Planning Board], Colleen Krieser (CK)[At Large]

Not present: Richard Durand (RD) [Parks & Recreation]

APAC taped: YES (through Public Hearing)

7:05 PM – Open Meeting

• **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- JM moved to accept the minutes for 8/7/2019 as written; BES 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

• **Correspondence / Bills**

- Sandy Pond School Restoration and Preservation Project Phase IA (\$108,000 funding, Spring Town Meeting 2018)
 - \$35,000, Gerald O'Doherty, general contractor, for cutting and repointing, and for interior and exterior painting.
 - JP will forward this bill on to Town Manager Robert Pontbriand for approval of payment.
 - \$18,000 remains in the balance for this grant.
 - In addition, CPC members were invited to the Sandy Pond School Association's 150th anniversary celebration on Sept. 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - State Senator Jamie Eldridge and State Representative Sheila Harrington will be among those present and making remarks.
 - The plaque for the schoolhouse's placement on the National Register will be unveiled.
 - Many other activities are also planned, including guided tours of the schoolhouse, music by Traditional Brew, children's activities, and refreshments provided by the Friends of Ayer Library.
- Ayer Community Garden (\$41,000, Spring Town Meeting 2019)
 - JP replied to correspondence from Sheila Carman who expressed concern that the Grant Agreement is for 3 years, while the expansion of the garden might possibly take longer.
 - JP explained it is a simple matter for CPC to approve extensions of grants.
 - In addition, CPC members were invited to an Open House, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, on Sept. 4.



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- This event will take place at the garden's location on Barnum Road or, if it is raining, at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church at 21 Washington Street.

OLD BUSINESS

- **CPC Surcharge**

- JP met with the Board of Selectmen on 8/13 to discuss placing an Article on the Warrant for Town Meeting to vote on raising the CPC surcharge from 1% to 3%.
 - This change would not only increase the State's matching funds but also make the town eligible for an additional round of State matching funds, over and above what is currently received.
- The surcharge increase will need to be approved by both Town Meeting vote and Ballot vote at the Annual Town election in April.
 - (In addition, it was noted that the Ballot vote cannot be part of a Special Election.)
- Logistically, the Town Meeting vote has to take place prior to the Ballot vote, and, according to Town Counsel, there also needs to be at least 35 days in between votes.
- The BOS approved the Article requesting a surcharge increase and it will be placed on the Warrant for Fall Town Meeting, on October 28.
 - If passed there, it will be followed by a Ballot vote next April.
- JP will be asking various people to speak at Town Meeting in support of the measure, highlighting projects that CPC money could be used to support in the future.
 - Among such projects, JP noted that workforce and senior housing projects could be eligible for CPC funding support, as well as contributing to upgrades on the high school's athletic fields.
- A Public Hearing on the Warrant Article will be held, as required, at CPC's next meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

- **Committee Updates**

- Historical Commission (BES)
 - The Commission is considering a spread-out celebration of Ayer's 150th anniversary in 2021 rather than a single weekend event.
 - They are looking for both ideas and resident participation in the planning process.
- Housing Authority (JP)
 - The Authority is reviewing its annual budget.
 - In addition, the new Affordable Housing Committee will be holding its next meeting on Sept. 13.
- Parks & Recreation (RD)



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- No report.
- Conservation Commission (JG)
 - ConCom's updated wetland bylaw will be on the Warrant for Fall Town Meeting.
- Planning Board (JM)
 - The Planning Board is reviewing a number of big development projects, one off Littleton Road/Rte. 2A as well as two off Shaker Road.
 - One of the latter projects has an additional complication in that part of the parcel crosses over into the Town of Harvard.
 - The Planning Board will also be reviewing the Zoning Bylaw to update it further with regard to regulating short-term rentals in Ayer.
 - This is in response to a Zoning Board of Appeals vote on 8/21 denying an application for a Use Variance to allow a residential home to be used for Airbnb rentals.
 - Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee (BAS)
 - The Nashua River Wild & Scenic Committee has changed from a study committee that achieved national designation for this region's portion of the river (accomplished earlier this year) to a stewardship council.
- **8:10 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
 - CPC's Next Meeting: October 2, 7 p.m.
 - BES moved to adjourn; CK 2nd.
 - Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jessica G. Gugino, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved by Community Preservation Committee: 10/2/2019

Signature Indicating Approval: Jessica G. Gugino