

**Town of Hamilton
Community Preservation Committee
February 11, 2010 Minutes**

Attendees

The meeting was held in the Memorial Room of Town Hall with the following Committee members in attendance: Dave Carey, Jay Butler, Tom Catalano, Chris Davis, Peter Dana, Ray Whipple, and Ed Howard. Christine Berry as CPC Coordinator was also present. With a quorum present the meeting was called to order.

Funding Applications for FY 2011 for CPA Funding

The purpose of this portion of the meeting is to review the final applications for FY2011 CPA Funding. The following projects have been deemed eligible under CPA guidelines.

Preservation and Restoration of Cutler Park

Jim Hankin, the applicant, was present to discuss the proposal. At the January CPC meeting, the Committee asked Jim to notify and invite the abutters to this meeting to seek their feedback on the proposal. Several abutters attended the meeting including Chris and Karen Doggett, David Kagan, and Robert Preston. The abutters expressed concern that the park, once preserved, will not be sustaining. Abutters have been maintaining the park property for years. Jim said the plantings called for in Mike DeRosa's design are low maintenance and that he, or a Conservation Commission member, can undertake maintenance. The abutters expressed concern that the steps running down the hill would be a liability to the Town. They said the area is not safe and was a former dump; that they often come across glass and rubble from the paving and reconstruction of Route 1A/Bay Road and that the pond has questionable water quality and that its level changes dramatically.

The proposal still requires recommendation by the CPC, approval by Town Meeting and the Board of Selectmen, and a permit by the Conservation Commission. Jim felt that he could rework the proposal with Mike to cut the costs, address the abutter concerns, and stay away from the slope. Members of the Committee expressed support for the project in that it could be a lovely pocket park in the heart of the Town's Historic District. They did not believe parking would be an issue. Jim will work to have a revised proposal ready in advance of the CPC's March 11th meeting.

Asbury Street Pedestrian Path

Christopher Little, the applicant, was present to discuss this proposal. The Committee expressed concern that his proposal was going to cost too much money with not much benefit and that it was not part of the Road Safety Master Plan. Chris Little described a revised proposal that would not require pavement and would be a tie in to the Discover Hamilton Trail with links to Bradley Palmer State Park. Chris reported that Peter Britton was planning to secure a quote from Arthur Page for the trail construction. Essex County Trails Association (ECTA) expressed initial support and offered assistance for permitting if there were no private property issues. There would be little to no grading required, but the Conservation Commission would need to be involved because of wetland/stream issues. The Committee expressed concern that there could be hidden costs like on-going maintenance, trees having to come down, and neighborhood concerns. Some expressed concern that this could lead to other requests for paths/sidewalks in Town.

The Committee asked that Chris bring the proposal back to them with firm costs and to contact Jim Hankin for his input on costs associated with Conservation Commission approval. The Committee also asked that Chris notify each of the abutters along the path, and Sharon Road, and invite them to the Committee's March 11th meeting if they wished to provide input.

2010 Community Preservation Coalition Dues - \$1,500.00 - Administration Fund Request

The Community Preservation Coalition has submitted their invoice for 2010 annual dues. The Coalition chose not to raise their dues this year. The Coalition provides support for CPC's statewide, hosts conferences and workshops pertaining to the CPA, as well as support for legislative efforts that strengthen the CPA. The Committee voted to approve the use of \$1,500.00 from the administrative account to fund these dues.

Community Gardens Discussion

There had been interest expressed in exploring the possibility of beginning a community garden in Hamilton. CPA funds can be used to create community gardens. Christine completed some initial research of nearby communities who have established community gardens to learn what their experiences have been. Perhaps one of the most common statements made was the need to have a strong volunteer(s) to help institute and manage the garden. Ed Howard suggested that Peter Dana present the idea to the Planning Board to solicit their feedback.

Open Space/Recreation Proposal Discussion

The Committee discussed a potential open space/recreation proposal that has come forward. David Santomenna and Melissa Roy were present to discuss the proposal with the Committee. A 52-acre property on Sagamore Street may be available for purchase. The property is currently used, in part, for active recreation fields. If acquired by the Town, there is a potential for one more field to be developed. While large in size; drainage, slope, and wetland issues are a limiting factor in additional field development. The Town is already in high demand of fields and the potential of losing the fields would be significant. Melissa projected that this project would have the support of all of the leagues in town. In addition to CPA funds, there could be other sources of funding to tap for this project including state grants and the local sports leagues. The cost could also be bonded over a number of years. Essex County Greenbelt Association has begun the process to have the property appraised.

Christine will work to coordinate a site visit of the property with the Committee and invite Jim Hankin to attend. Christine will also find out what the assessed value is and determine what they currently pay in taxes.

Status Update on all CPA Projects

Christine circulated a status report of all approved CPA projects and the Committee reviewed them. Christine will check in with Chief Stevens to confirm that he is clear on the location of the Model T Building.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05pm.