

**Town of Hamilton
Community Preservation Committee
August 14, 2008 Minutes**

Attendees

The meeting was held in the Memorial Room of Town Hall with the following Committee members in attendance: Tom Catalano, Dave Carey, Leigh Keyser, Peter Dana, Peter Britton, and Lindle Willnow. A quorum was present. Christine Berry as CPC Coordinator was also present.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the July 10th meeting were accepted.

Community Preservation Plan Update

Two members of Hamilton's Open Space Committee, Jackie Hodge and Susanna Colloredo-Mansfield, were in attendance to discuss the draft Community Preservation Plan. They came to discuss the open space component of the plan, particularly as it relates to the selection process for acquisitions funded by CPA and the CPA bylaw adopted by the Town.

Chapter XXVII of the Town Bylaw states that the Community Preservation Committee shall make recommendations to town meeting for the "acquisition, creation and preservation of open space pursuant to Article XCVII of the Constitution of the Commonwealth and the Hamilton Open Space Plan..." The draft Community Preservation Plan states that open space recommendation be made pursuant to goals and criteria stated in both the Town's Open Space Plan and Master Plan.

The Open Space Committee expressed concerns that the Plan does not conform to the language in the bylaw as it also cites the Master Plan as a guiding document for prioritizing open space acquisitions. The Open Space Committee feels that the Master Plan is an older document and that the Open Space Plan, more recently completed, provides a more up to date perspective, identifies threats and needs, uses the Master Plan goals and then moves forward.

Both the CPC and members of the Open Space Committee present recognized that there has been conflict between the Planning Board, which brought the Master Plan to fruition, and the Conservation Commission (the Open Space Committee is advisory to the Conservation Commission and works closely with the Commission as open space protection are part of its mandate).

There is a perception that the Open Space Plan does not adequately cover active recreation purposes, such as the needs for playing fields. Ms. Hodge clarified that the Plan is an Open Space and *Recreation* Plan and does include those goals and encouraged people to review the plan.

Members of the CPC expressed concern that many of them were not fully aware that the Open Space Plan was in its final stages of acceptance and that there may not have been adequate opportunity for town boards and the public to review and provide comments, whereas the Master Plan had broad community involvement and outreach.

The open space goals in the Master Plan and Open Space Plan are similar. The CPC views the Community Preservation Plan as the broadest plan based on a wide consensus. The CPC asked that Christine consult with Donna McKenna, Town Counsel, to opine as to whether the CPC can cite the Master Plan in the Open Space portion of the Community Preservation Plan given the CPA bylaw language.

All those present recognized that all boards should be working in tandem and collaboratively. The suggestion was made that we revise the draft Plan to integrate the goals of the Master Plan and Open Space Plan under one section since the goals are so similar.

There was additional discussion of whether CPA funds could be approved for placement into the Town's Conservation Fund which is held by the Conservation Commission. There was discussion about whether an acquisition funded by the Conservation Fund would require Town Meeting vote. While this avenue may provide an opportunity for quick movement in the threat of an imminent sale if a Town Meeting vote is not required, it was also recognized that the public appreciates the ability to vote on important town projects.

The Public Hearing for the draft Community Preservation Plan is scheduled for September 11th. The CPC asked that Christine remind the Planning Board and Conservation Commission about this meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11th at 7:30pm in the Memorial Room at Town Hall.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00pm.