

**Town of Hamilton
Community Preservation Committee
February 8, 2007**

Attendees

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm in the Memorial Room of Town Hall with the following Committee members in attendance: Tom Catalano, Bob Bullivant, Chris Davis, Peter Clark, Lindle Willnow, David Carey, Peter Dana, Leigh Keyser, and Ray Whipple. Christine Berry as CPC Coordinator was also present.

Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of January 11, 2007 with edits were approved.

CPC Preliminary Project Proposals

The Committee received 17 preliminary project proposals for use of FY2008 CPA funds.

Hamilton Veteran's Honor Roll: This proposal requests funding for an addition to the Veteran's Honor Roll to include veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The amount requested is \$25,000. Questions were raised about the basis for the cost estimates and whether this proposal fits into the CPA's historic purpose.

Conservation Fund Contribution: This proposal calls for the contribution of some portion of CPA funds to the Conservation Fund for open space acquisitions. There was no specific amount requested in this proposal. Questions were raised about whether this method would be approved by the Dept. of Revenue. The goal would be to have funding available in a short-time frame if a priority acquisition became available for purchase. However, Bob said that an emergency Town Meeting could be scheduled, if the need arose for use of CPA funds. Would these CPA funds mingle with other uses of the Conservation Fund monies (e.g. Mass. Audubon programs at the public school)?

MA Conservation Mapping Assistance Partnership Program: This proposal requests funding for the purchase of a laptop computer needed to carryout the MACCMAP GIS Program whose purpose is to support conservation organizations with planning and inventory using GIS. The proposal requests adequate funding to cover the cost of a laptop, though no dollar figure was provided. Questions were raised about whether this might overlap with other Town efforts to improve access to GIS. What is the cost of a laptop computer? There is a strong advantage of having the benefit to pull up data in the field.

Hamilton-Wenham Community House Architectural Design and Engineering Services for Portico Repairs: This proposal requests funding for the architectural design and engineering services necessary for the repair of the portico. The amount requested is \$16,400. The proposal estimated it will be 2-3 years until the Portico is repaired. Will the Community House come back to Committee seeking additional funds? How much are they seeking from Wenham's CPA fund? What if Wenham decides not to fund this project, and other joint Hamilton-Wenham CPA projects? Will they be preserving the existing functional space?

Conservation of Historic Documents: This proposal requests funding for the preservation of a variety of the Town's historical assets which are in need of conservation. The amount requested is \$13,000. There may be other sources of funding that we can leverage to help assist us with these costs (e.g. Essex National Heritage Commission, Associated Grant Makers of Boston, etc.)

Chebacco Woods Trail Restoration: This proposal requests funding for trail improvements on portions of the White Dot Trail at Chebacco Woods. The amount requested is \$15,000. The project proponents are also seeking funds from Manchester to help pay for this project. Chebacco Woods is a popular destination that receives a lot of public use.

Pleasant Pond Landscape Improvement Plan: This proposal requests funding for a portion of the Pleasant Pond Landscape Improvement, specifically, parking lot improvements and sub-grade preparation. The amount requested is \$40,000. What will Wenham's share of the cost be? The Recreation Board may be able to provide some capital support to this project.

Gathering Places – Construction of picnic tables, trash bins, and bike racks: This proposal requests funding for the purchase of raw materials to construct a dozen picnic tables, bike racks, and trash receptacles to be placed in parks and various other public areas of town. This amount requested is \$4200. This project might fall under the Recreation and Open Space CPA purpose. The project proponent should receive approval from the schools, DPW and the Recreation Board in advance of construction. Who will be responsible for emptying the trash cans?

Replacement of Windows at Town Hall: This proposal requests funding for the replacement of approximately 40 windows at Town Hall. No cost estimate was provided. Tom suggested that rather than replace the windows, they might want to consider replacing the storm windows. It would also be useful to complete an energy model of the building to analyze where the energy losses are occurring.

Repair/Replace Lights at Patton Park: This proposal requests funding for the repair and/or replacement of the wiring at Patton Park which feeds the various lights and poles at the park. The request was estimated to be between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The existing lighting is insufficient. Improved lighting could result in better field utilization, more users. Planning Board would need to play a role if this project were approved. Better quality, shielded lighting could allay concerns from abutters.

Repair/Replace Patton Park Garage: This proposal requests funding for the repair of the existing Patton Park DPW or the construction of a new low maintenance building. The amount requested is \$40,000 - \$50,000. Questions were raised about the age of the existing building and whether the cost estimates were for repair or replacement.

Vaulted/Domed Ceiling Second Floor Town Hall: This proposal requests funding for the repair of the 1898 existing plaster ceiling of the second floor of Town Hall. The amount requested is \$20,000-\$40,000. Questions were raised about the basis for the cost estimate. Tom will work with Allison Jenkins to get an estimate from a local plasterer.

Woodbury Street Proposal: This proposal requests funding for the construction of a stream crossing needed to complete the pedestrian/bicycle pathway along Woodbury Street. The amount requested is \$32,000. Questions were raised about the cost estimate and the location of the path. Chris will follow-up with John Hamilton and Brad Kimball.

Landfill Site Assessment and Reuse: This proposal requests funding for a study of the existing environmental condition of the landfill area and to review the potential for its reuse. The amount requested is \$51,000. Questions were raised about how this fit into the CPA purposes. What if the outcome of the study does not recommend housing, open space, or recreation; and instead recommends light industrial? Manchester will have concerns about what land-use happens at this location.

Buker School Gym Floor Replacement: This proposal requests funding for the replacement of the Buker School gym floor. The amount requested is \$20,000. Questions were raised about whether CPA could fund this project as it is located within a school facility. What will Wenham's share of the cost be?

Generals Youth Football, Inc. Patton Park Improvements: This proposal requests funding for field maintenance including geese control/elimination and additional lighting. Costs were estimated to be \$2000-\$5000 per year, with a one time cost of \$3000-\$5000. It was suggested that this proposal could perhaps be combined with the proposal to repair/replace underground wiring and lights at Patton Park. Ideas for effective geese control were discussed.

Model T Building: This proposal requests funds to replace the building that currently houses the Chemical I, a 1916 Model T/American LaFrance Chemical Truck, the first piece of apparatus purchased by the Hamilton Fire Dept. The amount requested is \$35,000. Questions were raised about whether CPA funds could be used to house something historic. Peter Clark discussed a very similar project in Georgetown which was approved using CPA funds.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th, at 7:30pm in the Memorial Room. At that meeting, a portion of the project proponents will present their proposals to the Committee and answer any questions. An additional meeting is scheduled for March 1st, at 7:30pm in the Memorial Room when the remaining project proponents will present their proposals.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting terminated at approximately 9:30pm.