

**Town of Hamilton  
Community Preservation Committee  
February 15, 2007**

**Attendees**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm in the Memorial Room of Town Hall with the following Committee members in attendance: Bob Bullivant, Peter Clark, David Carey, Peter Dana, Lindle Willnow, Ray Whipple, Chris Davis and Leigh Keyser. Christine Berry as CPC Coordinator was also present.

The intent of this meeting was to have the project proponents summarize their proposals and respond to any questions the Committee had.

Hamilton-Wenham Community House Architectural Design and Engineering Services for Portico Repairs: Melissa Elmer, Executive Director of the Hamilton-Wenham Community House, was present to discuss this project. Ms. Elmer described the building's problems, which include water seeping through the foundation and threatening the structural integrity of the portico. The portico functions as the main entrance and egress for the 300-500 people who use the building each day. Though the damage is limited to the portico, it threatens the entire building as the portico columns provide support to the structure. CPA funding will cover the design and engineering services. The proponent will likely request funding for the actual repairs in the future. Noted architect Guy Lowell constructed the building in 1921. Though it is not listed on the National Register, it is eligible. The Community House has a small endowment which is set aside for music programs based on the wishes of the donor. Ms. Elmer is requesting \$8,200 from Hamilton's CPA fund and \$8,200 from Wenham's CPA fund. If the costs for work exceed the grant request, the Community House can tap their capital funds. This request for CPA funds was made under the historic resources purpose.

Hamilton Veteran's Honor Roll: Jack Akin and Paul Stelline were present to discuss this project. The proponents are requesting funding for an addition to the Veteran's Honor Roll to include veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. There were previous war memorials that had been moved or had deteriorated beyond repair. The amount requested is \$25,000. Questions were raised about whether this proposal fits into the CPA's historic resources purpose.

MA Conservation Mapping Assistance Partnership Program: Virginia Cookson was present to discuss this proposal which requests \$1200 in 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 Conservation Commission has already spent just over \$400 for the software and book for this program. Questions were raised about whether this might overlap with other Town efforts to improve access to GIS. Does this quote reflect the specifications outlined in the grant award? Will they need a printer or plotter to print out the maps they create? Virginia should work with the Town's GIS Committee to secure a letter describing how this would fit into efforts to advance the Town's GIS capabilities.

Pleasant Pond Landscape Improvement Plan: Regina and David Baker were present to discuss this proposal. This proposal requests funding to implement a portion of the Pleasant Pond Landscape Improvement Plan, specifically, parking lot improvements and sub-grade preparation. The amount requested is \$40,000. The proponent is also requesting \$26,800 from Wenham's CPA fund to repair the retaining wall, another component of the Improvement Plan. Wenham's CPA fund also contributed \$10,000 last year for survey work. By reducing runoff, this project is also expected to improve the pond's water quality. The proponent was asked to break the \$40,000 in project costs into a menu of choices if the Committee is not able to fund the entire project.

Buker School Gym Floor Replacement: Linda Duryea, President of the Friends of Buker School was present to discuss this proposal. This proposal requests funding for the replacement of the Buker School gym floor, which has been buckling and is need of replacement. The estimated cost to repair the floor is \$60,000. The proponent is requesting \$20,000 from both the Hamilton and Wenham CPA and is expecting to raise the remaining \$20,000. Questions were raised about whether project qualifies under the historic and/or recreation purpose.

Chebacco Woods Trail Restoration: Virginia Cookson was present to discuss this proposal. This proposal requests funding for much-needed trail improvements on portions of the White Dot Trail at Chebacco Woods, a popular local recreation area. The amount requested is \$15,000. This project is highly leveraged with funding coming from Manchester CPA funds, Gordon College and a state grant to complete additional trail work. Details on the leveraged funding, along with a map illustrating the locations of the trail improvements was requested by the Committee. The project proponent will likely come back seeking additional funding in years to come.

Gathering Places – Construction of picnic tables, trash bins, and bike racks: David Bird was present to discuss his project. 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 be a better fit under the recreation and open space CPA purpose rather than historic resources. The project proponent should receive approval from the schools and DPW in advance of construction and ensure there are personnel available to empty the trash receptacles.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00pm in the Memorial Room. At that meeting, the remainder of the project proponents will present their proposals to the Committee and answer any questions.

#### **Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:28pm.