

**Town of Hamilton
Community Preservation Committee
April 9, 2009 Minutes**

Attendees

The meeting was held in the Memorial Room of Town Hall with the following Committee members in attendance: Tom Catalano, Dave Carey, Ray Whipple, Leigh Keyser, Jay Butler, Peter Britton, Peter Dana, and Peter Clark. Christine Berry as CPC Coordinator was also present. With a quorum present the meeting was opened at 7:30pm.

Acceptance of minutes from February 12th CPC meeting

The minutes from the February 12th CPC meeting were accepted.

Proposal for New Athletic Fields Purchase and Development

Jay Butler discussed a potential CPA proposal for new athletic fields in Wenham and Hamilton. He wanted to bring the idea forward before the CPC to solicit feedback and advice. There is currently a shortage of athletic fields in both communities. Working with a local developer, there may be an opportunity to develop athletic fields off Arbor Street. The developer is planning on building ten single family homes in this location but is interested in discussing this as an alternative. Nine of the homes would be sited in Wenham, and one would be sited in Hamilton. The estimated cost to acquire the property and develop the fields was estimated at \$3 million. CPA funds from both Hamilton and Wenham as well as grants and contributions from organized sports and the Recreation Department would be needed to fund this project.

From a tax revenue analysis it would be cheaper to develop fields than 10 single family homes. Abutters in the neighborhood have organized against the housing development. Visually, the fields could be more of a scar than homes. The site is not flat and may be difficult to develop into athletic fields. The Planning Board has been back and forth on proposals for this site for three years. This proposal still has to go before the Wenham CPC.

The CPC recommended we work to find out what grants are available to help fund and develop this property for athletic fields, find out if Wenham CPC would support this proposal, and perhaps work on pricing out an option. Christine will pass on the Longmeadow field development cost estimates to Jay.

CPA Warrant Review and ATM Presentation Discussion

The CPC reviewed the final warrant language. At Town Meeting Bruce Ramsey, Town Moderator, will read through each of the items and anyone can "hold" an item for future discussion. Christine will check on the status of the Town Meeting script with Donna.

May CPC Meeting Schedule

The next CPC meeting is scheduled for May 14th, Hamilton's town-wide Election Day. It is advised that meetings not be held on election days. As such, the next CPC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21st.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20pm.