

**Town of Hamilton  
Community Preservation Committee  
August 14, 2012 Minutes**

**Attendees**

The meeting was held in the Memorial Room of Town Hall with the following Committee members in attendance: Tom Catalano, Jennifer Scuteri, Ed Howard, Jay Butler, Ray Whipple, Keith Glidden. Christine Berry as CPC Coordinator was also present. With a quorum of CPC members present the meeting was called to order at 7:30pm

**Acceptance of Minutes from June 14<sup>th</sup> CPC Meeting**

The minutes from the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted by the CPC.

**CPA Funding Request – Patton Park Pool**

The Board of Selectmen decided to wait until Annual Town Meeting (ATM) in May to pursue funding for this project, so the application submitted by the Recreation Department is put on hold. Tom inquired whether there was a master plan in place for the park and pool. There is not, but the Town Recreation Master Plan was recently completed. That plan has not yet been viewed by the Selectmen or the Recreation Board. The CPC has funded several projects at Patton Park over the years, including new lights, Weaver Pond vegetation removal, and field re-grading.

Ed asked whether any engineering has been completed for the new pool. He expressed concern about the wetland and high water table in the vicinity of the pool and asked whether the CPC could fund the engineering study. Tom agreed that it made sense for the CPC to consider such a funding request for Special Town Meeting this fall so that a firm proposal could be developed in time for ATM. Jennifer agreed with that plan. Ed noted that it may make sense to sewer all of downtown Hamilton. Tom said that the pool cannot tie into the existing septic system at Winthrop School due to Title 5 regulations.

Jennifer noted that Gale Associates recently completed some preliminary evaluations and proposals for a new pool. She said that a committee will be formed, similar to the Committee pulled together for the Patton Estate, to make recommendations for moving forward on the pool project. Tom thought that with the DPW's assistance, a septic study could be completed cheaply. Keith added it will be important to plan for the building space and to look at whether the Town would need to purchase some of the abutting Schooling Field property.

Jay added that the #1 priority for the Recreation Board is to replace the pool and noted that the Board hadn't yet seen the Recreation Master Plan. He said that the project would be complicated with the existing parking, building, and possibility of needing to acquire additional land. He said that the timing would be tough for STM, but wondered whether the pool would be able to open next summer given it's rundown condition. Ed noted that the site constraints might be tough, but that he is not in opposition. The CPC agreed that Sean Timmons, Recreation Director, should come before the CPC with a request for an engineering study.

The Selectmen also voted recently to support a CPA request for \$25,000 from the Recreation Department and Friends of Patton Park Playground. This request will come before the CPC at their next meeting, which the CPC discussed holding on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. To date, the Friends have raised significant funds as well as in-kind services for the construction of the new playground.

### **CPA Funding Request – Patton Estate Recreation Fields**

The request for additional funding for the Patton Estate has been delayed in order to have adequate time to address the existing Town Well that is being discussed for abandonment. The survey has very recently been completed. Jennifer added that the amount of gravel will not be as substantial as originally thought. There is \$75,000 in CPA funds already in place for engineering, planning and permitting for the property. Michael Lombardo, Town Manager, expects that will be adequate for those purposes. There is still significant planning needed. Field design is an important component. And, there is access to the river, but no way for the public to get to it. An existing caretaker will remain at the house for the time being. There was discussion about the type of fields needed and that a turf field at the High School would make the most sense. Christine noted that the new CPA legislation prohibits the use of CPA funds for the development of turf fields.

Ed noted his concern over the potential abandonment of the well. He said that it is part of our registration and if we close it, DEP will never let us re-open it. He added that the Town still hasn't given up the School Street or Bridge Street well and we don't use those wells either.

### **Acceptance of Donovan Acquisition Donations – HW Youth Soccer Association**

Christine reported that we received a \$4,170.00 gift from HW Youth Soccer Association accompanied by a Gift Agreement Form stating that the donation be used to pay for the Donovan acquisition. It was moved that the gift be accepted. The CPC voted to accept the gifts, and Tom, as Chair of the CPC, signed the form.

### **Community Preservation Plan Update**

Given the recent changes in the CPA legislation, it is a good time to update the Community Preservation Plan. The Plan can also incorporate the findings in the new Recreation Master Plan and the efforts that are underway to update the Town's Affordable Housing Production Plan. Tom also suggested we include an economic history showing our local and state match revenues. Christine will work on some initial changes to the Plan and will circulate.

The Committee also discussed some of the outstanding projects that have not yet been completed such as the Model T building, the School Street well conservation restriction, and the Historic District Signs. Christine will prepare an updated report on project status for the CPC's next meeting.

### **Next CPC Meeting**

The CPC tentatively scheduled their next meeting for Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> to hear the request for the playground and engineering for the pool.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45pm.