

**Town of Hamilton
Community Preservation Committee
August 9, 2007**

Attendees

The meeting was held in the Memorial Room of Town Hall with the following Committee members in attendance: Dave Carey, Peter Britton, and Peter Dana. A quorum was not present. Christine Berry as CPC Coordinator was also present. John Hamilton, representing the Conservation Commission, was also present.

Update on Open Space Plan

John Hamilton was present to give an update on the status of Hamilton's Open Space and Recreation Plan and to report on some potential Self-Help and Urban Self-Help grant ideas. A draft Open Space and Recreation was submitted to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and has been given conditional approval pending some relatively minor revisions. Hamilton is now eligible to participate in Division of Conservation Services (DCS) grant rounds through 2012.

John also discussed some ideas for Self-Help and Urban Self-Help. Although its title is a bit misleading, the Urban Self-Help program will fund projects in suburban areas, though applications must be submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department. Urban Self-Help generally funds park improvements, leading to more active recreation uses. John discussed the idea of requesting funding for the construction of a small dock on the edge of the pond at Cutler Park. This dock could provide opportunities for environmental education.

Update on the Hamilton Housing Authority Kitchenette Project

Although this project is advancing with the help of DHCD, it is moving at an extremely slow pace. DHCD estimates the project won't be completed until May 2008. We discussed some ideas on how to complete this project more quickly. Other communities may have done similar projects completed in a reasonable timeframe. There are also four model kitchenette units sitting in storage. Is there a way to hire someone to install those units immediately? Christine will try to meet with Julie Martineau, Housing Authority Director, to discuss some ideas.

Discussion of Affordable Housing Trusts

Christine has begun exploring ways to advance affordable housing projects in a more expeditious manner. Several communities have created Municipal Affordable Housing Trusts under recently enacted state enabling legislation, G.L. Ch. 44, Sec. 55C. This type of housing trust allows communities to bypass state regulations such as purchasing laws and public bidding may be avoided, which can be important in making projects feasible. Hamilton already has an Affordable Housing Trust. This type of trust differs as decisions are made by the Board of Selectmen, and all expenditures require approval of Town Meeting. Christine will do some further investigation into whether a Trust or CDC would be best entity for advancing affordable housing projects.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 13th at 7:30pm in the Memorial Room at Town Hall.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Berry, CPC Coordinator

ATTEST: _____
Thomas Catalano Chairman