

HAMILTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

TOWN HALL—MEMORIAL ROOM

577 BAY ROAD

May 9, 2019

Members Present: Chair Jay Butler, Ed Howard, Katherine Mittelbusher, Neil Duggan, and Shawn Farrell

Members Absent: Chris Currier, Janel Curry, Robert Preston, and Sherry Leonard

Coordinator: Dorr Fox

Chair Jay Butler called the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting to order at 7 p.m. with a quorum present.

**Minutes—March 14 Meeting**

Ed Howard made a motion to accept the March 14 minutes as presented. Neil Duggan seconded the motion. The CPC voted unanimously among those present to accept the motion.

Mr. Butler welcomed back Selectman Shawn Farrell, who has served on the CPC before. He is a full-fledged member as well as the Board of Selectmen (BOS) liaison. New member Sherry Leonard, who has replaced Mimi Fanning, was absent this evening.

**Committee Member Reports**

Shawn said the BOS has had a flurry of meetings. Small revisions were made to the Ameresco solar panel project. Conservation Commission (ConsCom) Coordinator Jim Hankin, Treasurer/Collector Chery Booth, and Director of the Board of Assessors Tina Zelano are all retiring and Assistant to the Town Manager Anabela Batista and Town Clerk Andrea Dello Russo have left. The Town is adding a Department of Public Works employee, an accountant, and a part-time Human Resources employee. There are two new selectwomen: Rosemary Kennedy and Darcy Dale. BOS officers are Chair: Jeff Hubbard, Vice Chair: Ms. Kennedy, and BOS Clerk: Ms. Dale.

**Discussion on Annual Public Hearing**

The CPC is required to hold an annual public hearing to solicit ideas from the community for CPC projects. Last year they held a joint meeting with the BOS. These meetings are televised. Mr. Butler proposed they do that again. He expects the meeting to take an hour or less. The CPC agreed. Mr. Howard noted holding the meeting wasn't optional. He said it amazed him that participation is so low. The CPC discussed how over the years, participation at the CPC public meeting has dwindled. Dorr Fox suggested they schedule the hearing for June. They agreed.

### **Discussion on Upcoming Capital Committee**

Mr. Farrell noted Tuesday's Capital Committee (CapCom) meeting was cancelled. Former Selectman Scott Maddern is heading up the committee, which will look several years out into the future to see what big-ticket items may be coming. The CapCom will be an adjunct to the Town Manager and Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom). Mr. Butler discussed one option in light of the CPC's diminishing funds might be to increase the Town's surcharge. Robert Preston will be the CPC liaison to the CapCom.

Mr. Duggan, who coaches Little League, brought up the shortage of playing fields in Town and their overuse. He was told that although money was set aside for fields in Hamilton, there is the issue that if Hamilton contributes, Wenham also has to contribute.

Mr. Howard voiced concern there aren't any skiing and sliding slopes in Town like there used to be. He also brought up the topic of a porta toilet at the Town beach on Chebacco Lake. Mr. Butler said Mr. Howard's ideas are all on the CPC's future anticipated project list.

### **Status of Metal Plaque Signage**

Mr. Fox said he was distributing the signs, but wasn't sure if they are being put up. The thought had been to put one at Lamson Hall, but Housing Authority Executive Director Kate McGuire wants it at the Brooks House instead because Lamson Hall wasn't done through CPC money. She is waiting to place the sign until the siding is finished at Brooks House.

Mr. Fox said The Community House was exploring different places on the building's exterior to place the sign. He suggested Mr. Preston might follow up on that since he has a contact there. Mr. Fox also handed out a sign for the Patton Homestead. He will check with Director Kayleigh Pare about it. The sign at the American Legion is up. Rec Director Sean Timmons did a separate plaque acknowledging the CPC and Wenham for the Town pool. The CPC members didn't think that one was up yet.

Mr. Fox passed around photos of two sign choices drafted for Chris LaPointe of Greenbelt. The CPC unanimously preferred the vertical orientation.

Mr. Fox said he hadn't yet contacted Harborlight Community Partners for putting one on Firehouse Place. He will. He said some of the temporary signs he had put up seemed to have disappeared quickly. He didn't think they were being stolen; perhaps they had blown away.

In terms of finding out whether signs were being installed, Mr. Farrell suggested the CPC send an email asking grant recipients to send them a photo of the installed metal plaques saying: "Send us a photo of the installed sign when you have a chance. We'd love to see how it looks on the building."

### Review of Open Grants

- **Patton Park Cannons:** Mr. Fox showed a PowerPoint with a photo of the completed cannons. All the grant money was used.
- **Patton Park Basketball Hoops:** The PowerPoint also included a slide showing the installed hoops. There is still \$3,500 left in the account that will be returned to the CPC.
- **Historical Society Pictorial Collection:** They have about \$2,400 left that they still plan on using.
- **Patton Estate Roof Replacement and Exterior Restoration:** Mr. Howard had wanted an update. The PowerPoint showed a photo of the exterior; it is 99 percent complete. The skylights are gone and there's a new roof. Everything is painted. Ms. Pare's office and the Historical Society office still have boxes to be unpacked.
- **Brooks House Renovations:** There's \$4,700 left in the account.
- **Town Hall OPM (Owner's Project Manager):** There's no more money; however, they have received another \$150K from the CPC.
- **Knotweed Removal Program:** There is about \$2,500 left for the multi-year project. They expect it all to be spent.
- **Affordable Housing Trust grants:** They still have about \$480K. There had been an additional \$200K, which went back to the CPC (for Longmeadow Way and Willow Street projects that didn't happen).
- **Master Plan Housing Element:** About \$8,300 remains.
- **Weaver Pond Restoration:** There's a little more than \$15K in the account. Mr. Hankin has left his position on the ConsCom, but Mr. Fox will stay in touch with him. Mr. Howard inquired if work at the pond was seasonal. Mr. Fox said yes, and it's now the beginning of the season. Mr. Farrell said he thinks they will be spraying soon and then will hydro-rake in August. It is the same contractor who did the work before, but the company is now going by a different name.

Further Discussion: **The Community House** grant was reduced from what the CPC had approved to \$100K at Town Meeting.

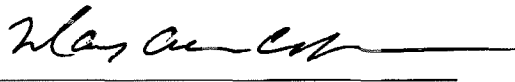
### Other Business as Necessary

The CPC has been invited to attend the All Boards and Committees meeting on May 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Library to bring everyone up to date on Town Hall building renovations. Mr. Butler, who sits on the Town Hall Building Committee, said the architects have been pressing them to come up with the design so as to present a more detailed picture to Town Meeting in the

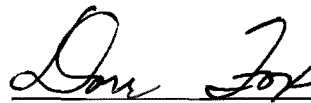
fall. There are two designs. Mr. Butler described each, and they are shown on the Town website. There is a question about how people feel about removing the grand staircase. An option would be to build a small addition to house an elevator. A 30-year municipal bond would mean 49 cents on the tax rate. A big question is what will happen with the Town government while the building is being remodeled. The “ask” at Town Meeting will be about \$8M. This might require that the Town go to the polls in addition to a vote at Town Meeting since it’s such a large ask.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Mr. Howard seconded the motion. The CPC voted unanimously among those present (5-0) to adjourn the meeting.



Mary Alice Cookson  
Minutes Secretary



Attest

7-11-19

Date