

Town of Hanson
542 Liberty Street, Hanson, MA 02341

Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) Meeting
Selectmen’s Meeting Room
Minutes for April 10, 2019

Next scheduled meeting will be on Wed., May 8, 2019 at 7 PM at the Bonney House

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Tom Hickey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call was as follows:

Members Present: Tom Hickey, Chairman and Member-At-Large
John Kemmett, Planning Board
Allan Clemons, Historical Commission
Patty Norton, Vice-Chairman and Member-At-Large
Karen Howes-Duclos, Member-At-Large
Teresa Santalucia, Housing Authority
Diane Cohen, Member-At-Large
Phil Clemons, Conservation Commission

Guests: Pepper Santalucia, President, Hanson Youth Soccer
Matt Dyer, Hanson Selectman
Phil Lindquist, Open Space Committee
Damon Stanton, President, Hanson Youth Football
John Norton, Capital Improvements Committee
Pam Clemens, Hanson Youth Soccer

Approval of Minutes

Patty made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 13 meeting, which was seconded by John. The motion was approved 8-0-0.

Chairman’s Report

Tom said that he did not have a budget update for this month. He continued by suggesting that the committee hold its usual May meeting jointly with the historical commission at the Bonney House, with the intention to invite Scott Winkler from Wessling Architects. Teresa noted that a representative from the Plymouth County Hospital Re-Use Committee should also be invited to attend. Phil said he will pass on that invitation to the committee.

New Business

CPC PUBLIC FORUM

Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Tom referenced the forum handout and reviewed its contents for those present (Overview of the CPA/Role of the CPC, Completed Projects, Projects in Progress and Applications Currently Under Review/Potential Application Submissions in the Future).

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Tom opened up the floor for the forum's focus topic—a discussion on how to approach maintenance and development of recreation fields in Hanson. He explained that in recent years, the committee has been approached by various sports group stating their individualized needs for funds. Tom continued that as a result, the CPC has tried to explore how it can get a broad picture of what is needed sports-wise in town, perhaps in the form of a formal study. Teresa noted the lack of a sports field inventory, the need to identify all of the sports stakeholders, the uncertainty of the Maquan fields and the questionable sports field maintenance responsibility.

John drew attention to the Botieri Field/Town Forest project in that it embraced both active and passive recreation and would like to see more future projects take on a dual-purpose role as well.

Mr. Lindquist cited the open space committee's past challenges in getting all the town sports individuals together to talk about this issue, affirming the need for an inventory and all the facts before any decisions can be made.

Mr. Santalucia expressed that an inventory of the fields and their usage could be achieved quite easily through parents whose children use the fields. He continued that progress on the sports-field issue has been hindered in part by the aforementioned uncertain future of Maquan, the determination of the eventual use of the Plymouth County Hospital property and the maintenance issue.

Mr. Stanton stated that there is no dedicated field in Hanson for youth football. He said that football practices take place at Maquan and Indian Head as granted by the schools and they pay the high school for the use of its field to play games. Mr. Stanton said that out of thirty-two towns in their league, they are one of two towns that does not have a field on which to host games. In response to Tom, Mr. Stanton said that soccer and lacrosse also practice at Maquan and Indian Head, and he is in regular contact with them in order to coordinate practice time, which is sometimes not available and must be canceled or held indoors at the high school gym. Phil noted that this time element is a critical component to a potential study in that a field with regular usage for practices, games and multiple sports would likely garner more support by residents.

Diane remarked that a study should also evaluate space in town that is not currently being used for fields.

In response to Ms. Clemens that the middle school will not use their fields due to the potential injury to students, Patty asked about the effort and cost to make their field usable again. Mr. Santalucia distributed to committee members one quote that they have received so far for about \$180,000 to include leveling the field and a sprinkler system.

John explained the CPC's limited funds and the array of projects to address, with Tom adding that the state-match has gotten smaller over the years as more cities and towns adopt the Community Preservation Act. Mr. Santalucia acknowledged that CPA funds would only be a part of the fund solution.

Tom explained that if monies were available, a study could be paid for by the CPC's administrative funds without town meeting approval.

Teresa stated that it may be necessary to form a subcommittee on this topic in order to advance the conversation.

Patty asked about dual-purpose fields. Mr. Stanton said that football and lacrosse can co-exist. He continued that other towns have created multi-use complexes to accommodate multiple sports.

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Tom clarified the two segments that may be necessary for this topic to progress, (1) a consultant to facilitate the process of identifying current fields, open space options, sports team needs, etc., and (2) an engineering study to assess the current fields and potential open space usage. Mr. Santalucia suggested that item #1 could be perhaps accomplished without the need for a consultant, while simultaneously focusing on procuring an engineer for that study. John suggested that a consultant may be able to better present the item #1 information in a way that the committee can understand.

Selectmen Dyer offered to facilitate a meeting in the near future with Parks & Fields and all of the key sports individuals in town to discuss the field issue. He said he will be in touch when a date is scheduled.

Mr. Norton explained that at budget time, the Capital Improvements Committee sends a letter to all town departments and organizations requesting that they provide a list of project needs and associated costs. He said that for some years, they have not received any response at all from Parks & Fields. Mr. Norton stated that any money requested at town meeting must first be placed on the capital improvements matrix.

Mr. Stanton remarked that the multi-use town-owned fields in Norwell are self-sustaining due to field rental opportunities. Mr. Santalucia said that part of Hanson's field study should be to research how other towns financially manage their fields.

The action items decided upon at this meeting were 1) the coordination of a comprehensive field meeting by Selectman Matt Dyer, and 2) leading up to a CPC application for an engineering study, Mr. Santalucia and Mr. Stanton said that they will each work to identify the name of a firm that could perform such a study. Tom noted that Mike McCue could likely advise them with business names based on past contracts.

Tom said he will keep the fields discussion on the agenda for May in the event of any needed conversation as things move forward.

Tom said he will inquire with accounting the funds available in the CPC's administration account.

Adjournment

Patty made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Diane, and approved 8-0-0.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Schindler, Clerk
Community Preservation Committee