

Town of Hanson
542 Liberty Street, Hanson, MA 02341

Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”)
Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall
Minutes for August 11, 2021

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Tom Hickey called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Members Present: Tom Hickey, Chairman and Member-At-Large
Patty Norton, Member-At-Large
Diane Cohen, Member-At-Large
Allan Clemons, Historical Commission
Teresa Santalucia, Housing Authority
Eric Olson, Parks & Fields Commission

Members Absent: John Kemmett, Vice-Chairman and Planning Board
Karen Howes-Duclos, Member-At-Large
Phil Clemons, Conservation Commission

Hanson Middle School Field Application

Tom asked Member Eric Olson to introduce the middle school application, which seeks \$90,000 for field design work. Eric explained that preliminary design costs and a basic schematic indicate that two full-size turf fields, side-by-side, will fit at the middle school, sized to accommodate soccer, lacrosse and football. He noted that the softball field would stay in its current corner location. Eric said that this design concept would allow for a turf or a natural grass field. He said that after many meetings and discussions, Parks & Fields recommends the option for the two full-size turf fields.

Eric stated that the application to the CPC for \$90,000 is for a full design, engineering documents and permitting costs.

Tom reviewed that CPA funding can be used for design when artificial turf is involved, but it cannot be used for the construction of the turf materials. Eric stated that about \$700,000 has been quoted to them for turf fields, which includes maintenance by the vendor for fifteen years.

Eric described user fees contributed by the sports groups to an account, co-managed by the school and Parks & Fields, designed to pay for new turf when it becomes necessary.

To be resolved, Eric said, is the fact that the fields reside on middle school property and are under school jurisdiction until 4PM, and there is no official maintenance responsibility by Parks & Fields.

During discussion, Eric stated that Parks & Fields has incurred a cost of \$4,200 thus far in this design phase for the purpose of securing estimated costs and defining scope.

MOTION by Teresa, seconded by Patty, to accept the application for \$94,200, with the funds taken from Open Space and Undesignated. Voted 6-0.

Tom said he will contact the Selectmen’s office regarding the build of the article.

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Little Cedar Swamp Application

In Phil's absence, Allan read an introductory summary of the application saying that the Conservation Commission voted to submit a Part B application to acquire a parcel of open space in Little Cedar Swamp, noting that the CPC approved a Part A application for the purchase some months ago but the Board of Selectmen chose not to consider it.

Allan continued that the property is still for sale and the owners are willing to sell it to the Town. He said that Conservation has committed \$8,000 from its Conservation Fund, and with \$65,000 requested from the CPC, a total of \$73,000 is needed for the purchase.

Allan pointed out from the application narrative that this purchase is time-sensitive and would draw the Town closer to 100% ownership of Little Cedar Swamp. He said it is the only land protection opportunity under consideration at this time, there would be no need to raise and appropriate any new funds or draw from Free Cash and is worthy of placement before Town Meeting.

Allan relayed that Phil looked into the fire-works grant and determined that it is not available for this type of project.

Allan lastly described and emphasized the importance of maintaining these wetland areas and protecting them from alternative development.

Patty noted a clerical error on the application that states the total cost as \$69,000 and the total project cost as \$73,000, which should be the same. Tom agreed that it be corrected for the record.

MOTION by Teresa, seconded by Patty, to accept the Part B application as presented, with amendment to Part VI Project Budget, to correct Total Project Cost as \$73,000, with funds to be taken from Open Space and Undesignated. Voted 6-0.

Botieri Fence Pre-Application

Tom stated that an incomplete Part A application was received via email in late July from Hanson Little League to replace the chain link fence that exists between the Highway Department and the Little League Field. He said that he reached out to the coalition for clarification and learned that this would be CPA-eligible because it is for the replacement of the fence. Tom also shared that the fence replacement would be eligible only if it is located on Recreation property, but not if on the highway department side.

Eric said that the fence has been in disrepair for many years and is a safety hazard. He said that they want to replace the fence, add privacy slats and a net above to catch foul balls.

Teresa recommended that their completed application include other funding sources and/or fundraising efforts and to include a drawing with the application. Teresa also suggested that the application describe the other assistance that the CPC has given to Little League in the past.

Tom asked Shirley to respond back to Adam Valachovic and ask that their future Part B application 1) include additional funding sources outside of CPA, 2) include a drawing or other visual depicting the fence placement in order to better illustrate for the committee, 3) identify the property line to know on whose property the fence is located, and 4) include in the narrative section of the application a history of past funds that Little League has acquired by the CPC.

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Adjournment

MOTION by Patty, seconded by Diane, to adjourn the meeting. Voted 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Schindler, Clerk
Community Preservation Committee