

Town of Hanson
542 Liberty Street, Hanson, MA 02341

Community Preservation Committee (“CPC”) Meeting
Minutes for February 10, 2016

Next meeting will be 7:00 PM, Wednesday, March 9, 2016

The meeting was assembled in the Town Hall’s 1st floor dining room since the Selectmen’s Room was occupied by another group. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. Roll call of attendance was as follows:

- Members Present: Laura Fitzgerald-Kemmett, Chairman and Member-At-Large
Tom Hickey, Member-At-Large
Robert Overholtzer, Member-At-Large
John Kemmett, Conservation
Allan Clemons, Historical Commission
Kenny Mitchell, Parks & Fields
Robert Sears, Housing Authority
- Members Absent: Stephen Regan, Planning Board
Patty Norton, Vice-Chairman and Member-At-Large
- Guests: Phil Clemons, Conservation Commission
Don Ellis (will be a late arrival due to conflict with another meeting)

Minutes – Tom made a motion, seconded by John, to approve the November and December minutes. Members voted approval 7-0-0.

Old Business:

Thomas Mill – Guest Phil Clemons informed the group that the Thomas Mill deed restriction is near completion by Wildlands Trust.

Bonney House – Allan stated that he is awaiting the return of the Vo-Tech students in order to work on the back side of the Bonney House. Allan expects that any delay in their resuming work is likely weather-related.

Botieri Fields and Town Forest – Laura said she has signed off on any bills that have been submitted for the Botieri Fields. In regard to the Town Forest, Phil Clemons stated that signage was to be erected that would guide visitors from the parking lot to the forest. There was discussion that going forward, signage relative to a project should be incorporated into the warrant article and bundled into the cost of the project.

WHRHS Recreation Area – Laura said we are current on all submitted bills regarding the WHRHS Recreation Area project. Per comments of members who had been by there, it appears that no recent work has been done, with equipment likely to be installed when the weather improves.

Camp Kiwanee – Laura had no new information to report regarding continuance of the Camp Kiwanee cabin project. It has been on hold until Jim Flanagan is able to find a contractor to do the remainder of the work.

Plymouth County Hospital (“PCH”) – The first meeting of the newly formed PCH Re-Use Committee is in the process of being re-scheduled. Laura said that it will be an open meeting. As a dual member of the Board of Selectmen and CPC, and knowing the CPC’s strong interest in the project, Kenny said that he pushed very hard for the creation of the committee.

New Business

Hanson Softball/L.Z. Thomas Field – Laura said that she has not heard anymore from Hanson Softball since their appearance at the CPC meeting last fall.

CPC Section of new Town of Hanson website – Laura informed members of the work that Shirley has done to setup CPC on the new Town of Hanson website.

Community Preservation Plan (“CPP”) Consultant – Members were in receipt of the CPP Consultant RFP. Laura reviewed that the role of the consultant would be to proactively meet with stakeholders in town, present his or her findings to CPC and assist with prioritizing the list going forward. Members agreed that hiring a consultant would enable CPC to create a long range vision.

Bob Sears reminded the group of the list of consultants that are available from the Community Preservation Coalition.

Although Laura believes that the cost of consulting services will fall around \$10,000, she said Interim Town Administration Richard LaCamera advised her to state the estimated cost at \$15,000 to insure that all expenses are factored in. Laura would like to create a CPC sub-committee of three or four members to narrow down the search for consultants to a few, and then allow the full committee to make a final decision on who is hired.

Kenny asked if this would be a one-time consulting service, and Laura said yes.

Laura asked Shirley to request the list of consultants from the coalition and forward it to the sub-committee members. John, Tom and Bob O. volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

Smitty’s Bog – Conservation Commission member, Phil Clemons, was present for a discussion of Smitty’s Bog. Laura reviewed the purpose of the discussion—her observation that there seems to be no control over the property, with obvious signs of vandalism, and in what way could CPC be of help.

Phil said that there is a USDA restoration plan underway for the area already; however, the biggest challenge for the property is in controlling undesirable activity in the right-of-way. Phil described the short-term solution of re-installing the gate to cut off access to the larger boat area. He said the long-term solution is in the form of more restrictions; preventing access by motorized vehicles.

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Laura questioned whether violators are even aware that they are violating. Phil agreed, saying that more, and better, signage is needed to clearly state rules.

As far as where CPA funding might come in, Phil said that the parking area needs to be re-located closer to Indian Head Street; there needs to be a kiosk of rules with a trail map; and trees need to be removed. Phil went on to say that accomplishing these steps would eliminate 95% of motorized vehicles going beyond the parking area. Phil said that with the short-term plan to repair/replace the gate, CPC could perhaps get involved at a later date with the boat launch area.

Laura asked Phil for his thoughts on community vigilance to aid in the enforcement of rules. Phil believes instead that an organized "Friends" group would be a more effective oversight of the area.

Tom called for the creation of a placeholder for CPA funds toward Smitty's Bog relative to the October Town Meeting. Phil said that October would be a reasonable timeframe, given that the Commission should be closer to addressing Phase II actions by that time. Laura asked Shirley to touch base with Phil in late spring for an update on their status.

Monponsett Playground – Don Ellis joined the meeting to continue the conversation about his idea for a children's playground on Hancock Street in Monponsett. He distributed copies of a lot map of the area. Laura briefly reviewed Don's plan to donate his lot 764 to the town, asking that the town-owned lot next to it, 766, be used with it for the development of a neighborhood playground. Don would need to go before the selectmen about his donation, requesting that a warrant be presented to voters at Town Meeting to accept the gift. Laura noted the necessity of a restriction placed on the gift, stipulating its use as a playground in conjunction with town lot 766.

Bob Sears questioned the ownership of Lot 770 on the other side of 764, which appears to be an empty lot.

Discussion continued relative to fund raising and oversight of the property. Joe Weeks' name was mentioned by several members as someone with children who lives in that area and might be willing to join the efforts for the project.

Asked about the status of the ball field across the street from the lots, Kenny said that Parks & Fields oversees the field and it is used on occasion by local sports groups. No one group has taken ownership of the field, likely due to its distance from other parts of town. Asked whether the field might be used as parking for the playground, Don felt that the field should remain a field and perhaps parking could be incorporated into the lots dedicated to the project.

Tom made a motion, 2nd by John, to support Don in his efforts to coordinate the development of a playground, using his lot 766, combined with town-owned lot 764. The motion was unanimously approved 7-0-0.

Laura asked Don to inform CPC when he is on the Selectmen's agenda.

CPC Open Forum 2016 – Laura said that the annual CPC open forum will be held on Wednesday, April 13. It was suggested that it be held at Camp Kiwanee. Laura asked Shirley to contact Camp Kiwanee to find out if that would be possible.

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Laura will invite persons to speak on completed and on-going CPA projects: Botteri Fields; WHRHS Rec. Area (Bob Rodgers); Bonney House (Allan Clemons); Camp Kiwanee (Jim Flanagan); and someone from the new PCH Re-Use Committee.

Historical Artifact Inventory – Laura would like to see the Historical Commission artifact inventory completed as soon as possible. It has been an off and on project of the commission in recent years as funds were available. Since Michelle Millis has indicated her desire to move a CPA project forward as soon as possible, Laura suggested that a placeholder for it be added relative to the upcoming Town Meeting. Laura asked Shirley to continue her follow-up with Michelle.

Other New Business – Bob Sears took the floor concerning several items. He wanted to emphasize the CPA success stories that are posted on the coalition website. He commented on the availability of land on County Road for possible Housing Authority use. Laura had communicated to Bob that perhaps the Housing Authority should look into obtaining the property with CPA funds because of its proximity to the Meeting House Lane property; currently one of the Housing Authority properties. Bob noted that the Housing Authority had discussed the property but concluded that the timing was not right at this point. Lastly, Bob stated his intention to step down from the CPC at the end of his 2016 term. He has communicated the need for a Housing Authority replacement to the board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment:

Tom made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Kenny, approved 7-0-0.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Schindler, Clerk
Community Preservation Committee