

## **Community Preservation Committee Minutes**

**Date:** September 25, 2019

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:** Town Hall Meeting Room, Town Hall

**Attendees:** Didi Chadran, John Lee, Beth Williams, Michelle Catalina, Doug Thornton, Jo Ward, Fran Nickerson, Pam Marston, Kristin Kelley-Munoz

**Guests:** Bruce Leicher- The Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee, Peter Dorward, Jim Lee, Tom Cotton – Harvard Conservation Trust, Don Ritchie, Wendy Sisson – Harvard Conservation Commission, Ken Crater – Community Harvest Project

Meeting Convened at 7:33pm

1. Public Comment Period – No public comments received.
2. Review Minutes from 7/24/2019 Meeting – Minutes were approved as written.
3. Conservation Commission – Wendy Sisson & Don Ritchie presented ConComm's plans. They won't be submitting a grant request for invasive species this year, but will be asking the CPC to extend the sunset date on leftover invasive species funds. They are currently working on Hermann's Orchard. They will be requesting \$200 towards future land purchases (one which they are working in cooperation with the Trust).
4. Conservation Trust – Tom Cotton (President) presented history & statistics of the Trust. Founded in 1973. Currently 20% of the Town land is protected (22 parcels totaling 325 acres). Working with the Sudbury Valley Trustees on a Strategic Land Protection Plan for the Town utilizing a utility corridor to put together a trail system (approximately 200 acres).
5. Community Harvest Project (CHP) – Ken Crater (Board of Directors) presented an overview CHP, which is volunteer farming for hunger relief, primarily for Worcester County. It's comprised of 2 sites (Grafton (row crops) and Prospect Hill Community Orchard in Harvard. CHP partnering with the Harvard Conservation Trust will probably be submitting a grant application for funding of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction to permanently protect the Orchard as open agricultural land. Discussion was held as to whether CPC could purchase an APR on land not purchased with CPC funds. After research, by Michelle Catalina, it was determined that CPC can support this endeavor, if we have funds
6. The Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee – Bruce Leicher (Chair) presented a historical overview of the Committee. It was formed in 1998 when Bare Hill was listed by the Massachusetts DEP as an endangered pond. The Committee does the drawdown to remove phosphorous and kill the invasives in the Pond. This

action has not eliminated the invasives, but is currently controlling it. The committee currently has about \$50,000 in reserves and no perceived upcoming projects so will not be requesting funds from CPC.

7. Treasurer's Report – CP3 Report has been submitted to the Coalition All projects approved at the May 2019 Town Meeting have been recorded.
8. Post-Mortem: All Boards Meeting: The Select Boards presented their FY2020 goals. There was discussion of splitting the Annual Town Meeting into spring and fall sessions. Financial articles would be at Spring Meeting and zoning and other non-financial articles would be covered during the Fall Meeting. Select Board and Town Hall will continue to determine what to do.
9. New Grantee Notification Letters – Didi prepared draft letters for recipients and forwarded them to the Committee, for review. Didi will do a letter for MAHT.
10. CPC sign project – Pam Marston will work with Judy Warner and talk with Teddy Maxant regarding signs similar to those used for the Barn to Barn Tour.
11. Cross-Committee Discussions: The following committees are tentatively scheduled to appear at the next CPC meeting in October.
  - Park & Recreation
  - Historic Commission
  - Permanent Building Committee
12. Action Items
  - Didi will draft grant notification letter for MAHT, for this year's article.
  - Michelle Catalina will work on updating the CPC page on the Town website.
  - Pam Marston will find a vendor for CPC sign/banner for ongoing projects

13. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 9:58pm

Next CPC Meeting: October 16, 2019.