

Wrentham Community Preservation Committee Minutes
Wednesday May 22nd 2019

Present: Chair Barry Kassler, Robin McDonald, Leo Immonen, Mark Cuddy, Alex Leonard, Steve Langley, Scott Manchuso

Absent: Chuck Woodhams

At 7:02 p.m., Barry Kassler called the May 22nd, 2019 meeting to order in Bennett Gardens meeting room.

Barry Kassler reminded committee members that four presentations would be made tonight to the CPC requesting funding: The Cowell Painting Restoration application, The Open Space application, the Housing Authority application and the Lake Archer application.

Alex Leonard, Historical Commission member, spoke about the Cowell Painting restoration application. The Historical Commission supports this \$9,900 request for funding. In summary, the funds would be used to restore the paintings. The Cowell paintings are estimated to be 90 years old and worth an estimated \$3,800 each. Funds would be used to clean/restore/preserve 9 original paintings of significant historical Wrentham buildings painted in 1932. Paintings are available for viewing monthly at the Fiske Library. Approximately 100 people tour the Library annually. It was noted that other funding to support historical projects has been used to repair the Wampum House painting. One quote for the restoration work was received from Treffler's. Due to the need to transport paintings in order for the work to be done, it is most cost effective to use a company as close to Wrentham as possible. A second company that could do this work is in Pittsfield, but transportation of the paintings would not be practical.

Barry Kassler asked CPC Vice Chairman Mark Cuddy to assume CPC leadership so that Barry could present a funding request on behalf of the Open Space Committee. The Open Space Committee's request is for \$6,500 toward a total cost of \$16,400 to prepare an Open Space Committee plan. The Sweatt Fund has granted \$9,900 toward the costs. The existing plan is outdated as it was created in 2002. A current Open Space Plan is needed for Wrentham to be eligible for many state and

federal grant funds. The funds will be used to hire a qualified consultant to lead the process for the Open Space Committee and to ultimately produce an Open Space Plan for the community. This request for funding is supported by the Conservation Committee, the Recreation Commission and by the Open Space Committee.

Ashley Vincent, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, presented a request for \$20,000 to support the restoration and preservation of two fences (\$16,000), a gazebo (\$3,000) and a basketball hoop (\$1,000) at Bennett Gardens Housing Development and at New Emerald Lane. Committee questions included: Have Sweatt Funds been requested for this project? Answer, no. Is the fencing for security reasons? Answer, security and aesthetics. Would the Basketball hoop be supported by Recreation Commission? Answer Housing Authority has not inquired. Does the fence protect against injury or harm? Answer, yes for the safety of residents the fence is important. The request has the full support of the Housing Authority.

Jamin Reda and Mike Glass, on behalf of Lake Archer Association, made a presentation requesting in total \$45,000 of CPC funding; specifically, \$15,000 a year for three years. The Lake Archer funds would be used to treat invasive weeds in Lake Archer. The Lake Archer group intends to use Diver Assisted Suction to selectively pull out the weeds.

CPC member questions included: Who own Lake Archer? Answer, Lake Archer is a great pond owned by the Commonwealth. Question, Can the harvester that is proposed to be used on Lake Pearl be used in Lake Archer? Answer, the harvester would be helpful if the weeds grow close to the surface, yes, however the harvester will not permanently remove the weeds and the possibility of cross contamination exists. Question: Does Lake Archer have public access? Answer, no. Question does Lake Archer drain into Lake Pearl? Answer, yes.

The Lake Archer request has received the support of both the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee, they have requested the support of the Recreation Commission but had not heard back.

Barry Kassler informed the CPC that he and the town accountant have differing opinions on the estimated budgets presented to town meeting. CPC budget and the presentation of the amounts set forth in the projected budget need to be resolved between CPC and town officials. Both Barry Kassler and Leo Immonen have met with town officials to discuss the issue.

Leo Immonen made a motion for the 2020 budget to include \$12,750 for administrative expenses, \$30k allocated for Open Space, \$30k allocated for Historical and \$30k allocated for Housing. The remaining \$152,250 of estimated revenue is available to support any eligible and approved projects. This \$255,000 budget is based on historical collections of CPC funds for the town of Wrentham and the state matching funds. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Steve Langley made a motion to adjourn the CPC meeting at 9:36pm. Seconded, Vote: unanimously approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 26th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Bennett Gardens. Four presentations will be made on June 26th: The Rice Playground, Lake Pear, Mirror Lake and Gilly's House.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Robin McDonald