



TOWN OF STOW COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Monday, April 1, 2024

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Community Preservation Committee members present:

Maureen Crawford (Chair) - Housing Authority, Liza Mattison - Conservation, Barbara Clancy - Historical, John Colonna-Romano - Planning Board, Mike Busch - Recreation, Kevin Gross - Finance Committee, Al Arthur - Council on Aging, Vacant position - Board of Assessors

Not in attendance: Vin Antil - Open Space

Admin. Assistant: Nancy McManus

Guests: Kathy Sferra, Conservation Director and Jacquie Goring, Conservation Assistant

The meeting began with a quorum at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

7:03 **VOTE:** Kevin made a Motion to Approve the Minutes of 03/18/24, as amended. John seconded the Motion. A roll call was taken, and the vote passed 7-0.

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| Al | Yes |
| Barbara | Yes |
| John | Yes |
| Mike | Yes |
| Kevin | Yes |
| Liza | Yes |
| Maureen | Yes |

7:05 Kathy addressed the Woodhead Acquisition and Jacquie discussed the Captain Sgt. Invasive Species funding. Documents were sent to the attendees along with the Agenda with information pertaining to each of the subjects.

Kathy began with The Woodhead Acquisition. The property consists of 7 ³/₄ acre of land on Boxborough Road, which will be donated to the Town by the siblings of Bill Woodhead, the original owner. There is a small pool of funds voted on by the Town in 2016, Article #44 for the Conservation Commissions use for such projects that have small costs. The Woodhead acquisition will be surveyed for accuracy of the transfer of land. The cost will be approximately \$15,000, plus the legal cost for the Town counsel. Discussion was had among the members and Kathy in regard to the acquisition.

7:08 **VOTE:** Mike made a Motion to approve the use of all incidental acquisition costs according to Article #44, not to exceed the remaining funds. John seconded the Motion. A roll call was taken, and the vote passed 7-0.

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| Al | Yes |
| Barbara | Yes |
| John | Yes |
| Mike | Yes |
| Kevin | Yes |
| Liza | Yes |
| Maureen | Yes |

7:18 Jacquie Goring, Conservation Assistant –Jacquie reported on the remaining funds from 2015 Article #45 Invasive Species Mapping/Control (Capt. Sargent), which the total remaining balance is \$7,024.40. There was a discussion about the project's approach to bittersweet control, with Jacquie explaining a combination of methods would be used to expose areas for easier future maintenance.

The Committee discussed the wording of the article concerning the support of community gardens and the restoration of conservation land. John and Mike questioned whether the support should be described as a preservation or rehabilitation activity rather than a support activity. Kathy clarified that the original intent was to restore conservation land, not to support community gardens. The team agreed on the need to avoid using the word 'maintenance' as it might suggest ongoing costs, and instead suggested using 'restoration' and 'invasive management'. The team also agreed that the article and the quote, be worded in a way that accurately reflects the project's objectives and activities without being rejected.

7:34 Kathy Sferra and Jacquie left the meeting.

7:34 VOTE: John made a Motion to concur with the expenditures of invasive removals as proposed by the Conservation Commission. Mike seconded the Motion. A roll call was taken, and the vote passed 7-0.

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| Al | Yes |
| Barbara | Yes |
| John | Yes |
| Mike | Yes |
| Kevin | Yes |
| Liza | Yes |
| Maureen | Yes |

7:34 **News & Views** – Maureen met with Capital planning and reviewed the budget allocations and Articles in preparation for the Town Meeting. It was noted that Mike Kopczynski will be doing a presentation at Town Meeting on behalf of SMAHT Article #38.

In regard to the funds set aside in the Administrative bucket for the Historical Commission consultation fees - Maureen received an email from Julie, explaining the funds put aside in the Administrative bucket will be available for their use until the end of this current fiscal year. Maureen asked Barbara the status of the Historical Commission needing the funds. Barbara stated that the Historical Commission is trying to have the School House be on the National Register for Historic Buildings, but it has been a very slow process. Barbara will be meeting with Ashley Pinard to ask for her assistance. The Historical Commission would like this to be accomplished before they start the consultation process.

A welcome and congratulations to Al Arthur for being sworn in and officially joining the Community Preservation Committee, on behalf of the Council on Aging.

The next CPC meeting will be held on April 22, 2024, if needed.

7:49 **VOTE:** Mike made a Motion to adjourn, John seconded, the vote was unanimous, and a roll call was taken, the vote passed 7-0.

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| Al | Yes |
| Barbara | Yes |
| John | Yes |
| Mike | Yes |
| Kevin | Yes |
| Liza | Yes |
| Maureen | Yes |

Respectfully submitted by: Nancy McManus