**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

**TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**December 15, 2022 at 7:30 PM**

A public hearing and public meeting of the West Newbury Community Preservation Committee (CPC) were held in person on December 15, 2022 - Wendy Reed, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members in attendance: Wendy Reed, Bob Janes, Brad Buschur, Gary Bill, Judith Mizner, Angus Jennings and CPC Administrator, Barbara Gard. Patricia Reeser and Ray Cook were absent.

2. Reed invited Vanessa Johnson-Hall to give a brief overview of the Application that Essex County Greenbelt will be submitting to the CPC for consideration for funding of a land purchase in 2023 called Sawmill Brook. Johnson-Hall discussed the project stating the property is under Agreement now giving Greenbelt about a year to close. The property is significant as it appears on the State’s new Biomap showing core habitat for endangered species within the wetlands on the site, and emphasized that this property fits into the other adjacent protected land, with adjacent trails. Essex County will hold a new Conservation Restriction on this property, which will be separate from the existing restriction on Mill Pond. Parking at the site was briefly discussed. Jennings mentioned marking the existing trails on the property as private, to differentiate them from existing public trails.

1. Mizner moved to open the Public Hearing, with Janes seconding. Reed opened the Public Hearing, reviewing certain pages of the recently updated CPC Plan. The current funds were summarized showing 2022 revenues, totaling approximately $640,000 with a potential to increase that amount by $28,000. Going through other sections of the CPC plan, she then focused on Goals within each section.

**Housing Goals** - The Housing Production Plan is currently being updated with MAPC. She questioned the terminology “Grant Agreement” for Housing Section; (a document suggested by the Community Preservation Coalition). $172,000 is the current balance, which will probably be requested by the Housing Trust along with the 10% for the current year. Reed thinks that this type of Agreement would be needed every year.

**Historic Preservation Goals** – Reed asked for comments on Soldiers & Sailors building. Buschur suggested that any special architectural features on the building be saved, salvaged and re-used. He also suggested a public/private partnership in protecting this building. The Town Meeting voted to preserve the building, but Reed said that could still change. Bill said that demolition is off the table right now. Janes re-stated his position on why he thinks this building should be preserved, more specifically it could be used for displaying the historic documents and artifacts that the Town owns. Assessing the value of these historic items could possibly be a new application for a consultant’s task.

**Open Space Goals** – Buschur stated that it is important to separate active and passive recreation when revising goals; keeping the goals separated further. One goal for acquiring land for open space/passive recreation and the other for active recreation. The addition of the third goal – purchase of land for town water supply should also be separated out. Additional discussion of the need for the development and implementation of a management plan, to control invasive species on land that was acquired by the Town using CPA funds. An additional goal could be to enhance opportunities for adequate active and passive recreational facilities for citizens of all ages and abilities. Discussion about fencing/bleachers not allowed by CPA rules and regulations; funding for fencing, bleachers may need to come from the Town. The next item is a discussion of the current funds in each category, Jennings reminded the Committee that these funds commenced July 1, 2022.

Janes moved to close the public hearing, Buschur seconded, all approved.

3. **Deadline for applications to CPC for Upcoming spring Town Meeting** should be at least 2 weeks before the next meeting date, which is January 5, 2023. Gard will inform Johnson-Hall by email informing her of that deadline.

4.  **Signs** – the Committee started discussing where signs could be placed at CPA funded sites but no decision were finalized. Suggestions included Library, Town Hall, Page School, Trail heads and Brown Spring Farm. Signs will be addressed at future meetings. Reed asked Gard to order 3 of each size from The Sign Center, then Reed can show the owners of the property what the signs would look like in order to get their approval.

5. Mizner suggested one change to the previous meeting minutes and then moved to approve November 10, 2022 minutes as amended; seconded by Buschur. All approved.

6. and 7. No Correspondence and Administrative Details.

Mizner moved to adjourn, Jane seconded.

Having completed the business before it, the Committee adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at approximately 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held in the first-floor meeting room at Town Offices on January 19, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gard, CPC Administrator