

TOWN OF YARMOUTH
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
September 21, 2009
FINAL

PRESENT: Curtis Sears, Jack Mulkeen, Gloria Smith, Mary Ann Walsh, Nate Small,
Gary Ellis, Thomas Kelley

ABSENT: Tom Roche, Jim Carroll

ATTENDEES: Bud Groskopf, Robert Nash, Lauren Wolk, Caryn Welz Ritchie

STAFF: Jennifer Coutinho

LOCATION: Hearing Room, Town Offices, 1146 Route 28, South Yarmouth, MA

Chairman Sears opened the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) hearing at 6:56 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Correspondence: The CPC reviewed a draft letter to the Honorable Michael Moore and Linda Dorcena Forry at the State House stating that the CPC is in support of SB90. Ms. Walsh moved to approve the letter as amended. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous 7-0.

PRESENTATION

Chairman Sears introduced the members and presented information on the Community Preservation Act, accomplishments to date, and the projects recently approved at Annual Town Meeting 2009. He then reported on the CPC goals for community housing, historic preservation, recreation, and open space. In addition, he provided an explanation of Senate Bill 90, which would serve three purposes: to increase the State match to 75%, provide adoption options for less affluent communities, and change the recreation language so that funds could be used to rehabilitate existing recreational areas. Lastly, he explained the funding cycle and the application process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Sears read comments that were received from people who were unable to attend the meeting:

Comment #1 provided by Susan Rainville. The dogs need their own park. The question is where: Not the Beaches of Yarmouth. At 4:30 this afternoon there were six dogs and their walkers at the Bass River-Smugglers Beach. One was a Labrador, a New Foundland whatever and four smaller dogs. Also, I resent having to share the Board Walk at Bass Hole with dogs. I won't get in to the cleanliness issue! The dog licenses should be increased by \$5 to help pay for a Dog Park. Maybe cats should be licensed too. As a former dog owner I sympathize with the owners as they like to have space to run. Dog parks are the answer, but where? Ideas: 1) Near the Senior Center. 2) Near the Buck Island Fire Station. 3) Willow Street at Dennis Pond, widen the walking path; enlarge the parking area. 4) Part of the Flax Pond recreation area. Thanks for your attention and consideration!

Comment #2 provided from Nancy Wentzel-Johnson. She works closely with the Nam Vets Association of the Cape and the Islands and should like some funds appropriated for Veteran Rental Housing.

Comment #3 from Yarmouth Community Housing Committee. The Community Housing Committee would like the CPC to prioritize funding for rental housing.

Chairman Sears opened the floor to welcome community feedback.

Robert Nash, Executive Director of the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, explained that the Center would like to pursue funding to expand the Center with an educational wing. They pursued funding last year and the application was not recommended for various reasons, which they hope that they've overcome. The Center offers many programs for all age groups and there is a lack of space. The Center is one of the busiest entities in Yarmouth and the new educational wing, to be built on the former site of the Owls Club, would house a recording studio for children in collaboration with C3TV, pottery studio, culinary art kitchen, and a great hall. The Center serves 10,000 people per year and the educational wing would be a project that serves the entire community. He referred to the ruling from Attorney Murphy, after which he asked the CPC for input on the project and issues that should be addressed and of they should proceed with applying for funding.

Chairman Sears stated that, while the CPC received a letter from Town Counsel, they have not discussed it and they would put it on the agenda to discuss it before the applications are due.

Lauren Wolk, Associate Director of the Cultural Center, explained that they are involved with the youth, and in particular, at-risk youth. The Center conducted outreach and they have had many requests from people who work with at-risk youth, and from the youths themselves, to provide programs. The Center has been conducting programs at various schools throughout Cape Cod to express themselves creatively. The Center is going to provide mentors for a mentoring program for fourth grade children who attend Marguerite E. Small Elementary School.

Chairman Sears asked if the Cultural Center has considered satellite or other locations because the Cultural Center may outgrow the facility rapidly. Ms. Wolk replied that the Center goes off-site to groups, but the new educational wing would solve the space issues.

Ms. Ritchie, President of the Cultural Center, explained that there are 1,400 members and there is a need for an educational wing because the Center is growing rapidly. The educational mission that they hope to achieve is the foundation their goal, "All the Arts for All of Us". With cuts in the school system, she believes it's important for the Center to work with the Town, after which she asked the CPC to consider their application so that they can continue to grow.

Mr. Groskopf referred to the CPC goal of giving preference to projects that benefit the greatest number of people and have the strongest impact on Town character. He said that the Town needs a center and it would have a Village Green with a bandstand. The village green would be located across from Town Hall at the Joshua Sears playground area. He then asked Chairman Sears to explain why the State said the project was not eligible last year.

Chairman Sears responded that, while he agrees with the project idea, the project couldn't be funded under the CPA. The project is not historic and it couldn't fall under recreation because the property was not acquired with CPA funds, after which he explained that Senate Bill 90 would give the CPC more flexibility for recreation projects. Mr. Groskopf stated that he would move forward with the CPA application in the hopes that the CPA would be amended with Senate Bill 90. He added that the Engineering Department created a design to make the site a Village Green. He hopes to raise the funds to move forward with the project with or without CPA funds.

ADJOURN

As there was no further comment, the hearing adjourned the hearing at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Coutinho, CPA Coordinator

Mary Ann Walsh, Clerk