

**On 4 October 2017, on a motion by Ms. McGurrin, seconded by Ms. Walsh, the committee voted 7-0-0 to approve these minutes.**

TOWN OF YARMOUTH  
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 9, 2016

**PRESENT:** Gary Ellis, Tom Roche, Heather McElroy, Tom Durkin, Beverly Bachand, Dorcas McGurrin, Tom Kelly, Mary Ann Walsh

**ABSENT:** Nathan Small

**GUESTS:** Bob Kelley; John Basile, *Yarmouth Register*; Mary Zepernick; Pat Armstrong, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries

**STAFF:** Jen Copeland

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

YARMOUTH TOWN CLERK

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**CONVENE:** Chairman Ellis opened the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting at 3:08 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Sandy Pond Recreation Area – Design & Engineering (#170): Pat Armstrong, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries presented the request for \$343,000. She noted that the park was given to the town by Mr. McPhail in 1980 to offset the development of The Cove. A dog park has been added, but very little else has been done since 1980. She reviewed the history of the 2016 Recreation Master Plan which resulted in the recommendation to move forward with upgrades to Sandy Pond, which include tennis, basketball, and pickleball courts; parking lot and walkway improvements; fencing; outdoor gymnasium equipment; play areas; a multi-purpose, artificial turf field; storage sheds; concession building with restrooms; shade structures; benches; lighting; splash pad; landscaping; and signage. The cost is estimated between \$2.6 and \$3.1 million. This request is for the design and engineering. The property is already heavily used, but the re-design could accommodate more groups. Matching funds come in the form of in-house surveying, road work, and grading services. Ms. Armstrong will also be seeking grants.

Mr. Roche asked about the cost of benches, roughly \$2,000 each, whereas the Packet Landing benches cost \$750 each. Ms. Armstrong explained that the Packet Landing bench price did not include the cement pad and installation. There was further discussion regarding the landscape plan, marking of conservation trails with interpretive signage, and the location of the splash pad. Ms. Copeland will consult Town Counsel regarding using CPA funds for design of an artificial-turf field.

Ms. McGurrin thanked Ms. Armstrong for her work. Chairman Ellis asked for clarification of the matching funds from DPW. Ms. Armstrong will get the cost of the design write-off to the town. Chairman Ellis reminded Ms. Armstrong about using local contractors for the construction phase.

Ms. Walsh had some suggestions to improve safety at the dog park. Ms. Armstrong agreed to pass the information along to Mr. von Hone, as the Department of Natural Resources maintains the dog park. Mr. Kelley asked if there are fees to use the parks. Ms. Armstrong advised that fees are charged for groups or leagues that reserve a field or use the lights.

Peter Homer Park Playground Equipment (#171): Pat Armstrong, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries presented the request for \$164,000 to upgrade the playground equipment and add a handicap swing. She reviewed the long-term master plan for the park, then explained that this park was chosen for handicap play equipment in the short-term because it already has full-service, accessible bathrooms and good handicap parking. The existing playground was built in 1991. Ms. Armstrong provided two options to the Committee, one to modify the existing playground and one to replace just the existing play structure.

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The committee members were very supportive of the idea of a handicap-accessible playground. There was lengthy discussion about the parking lot adjacent to the Senior Center. Mr. Kelly asked, and Ms. Armstrong agreed, to reconfirm that it is on town-owned land, not Yarmouth Housing Authority land. The Committee also discussed various safety options for crossing Old Townhouse Road to access the parking across the street from the playground lights, bridge.

Ms. Copeland visits the park often and asked for a quote to replace the existing equipment with the same or similar because the kids love it. Ms. Armstrong agreed to get a quote. Ms. Copeland also suggested a shade structure adjacent to the basketball court and a new sign. Ms. Armstrong said she will let the Committee to decide among the various alternatives for modification and/or replacement.

Indian Memorial Improvements (#175): Pat Armstrong, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries, introduced Bob Kelley, Mary Zepernick, and John Basile, who brought this project to the attention of Ms. Armstrong. The group presented a request for \$50,000 to reset the cairn, remove invasive overgrowth, add a walkway, fence, signage, plantings and associated drainage. Indian Memorial is a cairn of rock located on a Native American burial ground on town-owned land. Over the years it has fallen into disrepair and become overgrown. Ms. Armstrong has consulted a landscape architect and the Wampanoag Tribe to get guidance on improving the site and protecting the sacred ground.

Mr. Kelley explained that the original burial ground was located closer to Bass River. When the saltworks were built there, the remains were disinterred and moved to the present site near Long Pond. Indian Memorial Drive now covers a portion of the actual burial ground, but the stone monument remains, although in disrepair. Ms. Armstrong noted that there has been much research done on the property, as evidenced in Mr. Basile's article in the March, 2016 *Register*. The Quaker Church and the Wampanoag hold ceremonies at the memorial each Fall to acknowledge the help given to the original settlers of Yarmouth by the Native Americans. This monument is the last vestige of any evidence of Native Americans in the area.

Ms. McElroy asked why there is a 30% contingency, which is very high. Ms. Armstrong stated that she would return anything unspent, but there are very few people who do this kind of specialized work. Ms. McElroy offered to connect Ms. Armstrong with her contacts who work in historic restoration. Ms. Armstrong also asked for Conservation Commission input regarding drainage.

Ms. Walsh asked how the public would know the site exists. Ms. Armstrong stated that it could be listed with the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth, the Chamber of Commerce, and various other data bases. Directional signage and historical information signage would also be part of the project. It is intended to be a low-maintenance project maintained by the cemetery division budget.

Mr. Kelley provided more historical background, and the Committee asked for written approval or a statement of support from the Wampanoag. Ms. Armstrong has been in contact with Ramona Peters of the Wampanoag Tribe, who has agreed to offer guidance. Ms. Copeland suggested also using Tourism Revenue Preservation Funds for the project. Ms. Zepernick thanked the Committee for its support.

Cemetery Signage for Ancient and Pine Grove Cemeteries (#174): Ms. Armstrong presented a request for \$10,000 to design signs for town cemeteries, and to create signs and information boards for Ancient Cemetery and Pine Grove Cemetery. This request is to support the Ad-Hoc Cemetery Committee, which was charged with revising the Town's cemetery rules and regulations. The Committee found that Town cemeteries do not have name signs or information kiosks. This project would provide a jump-start for the Committee. Eight of the Town's nine cemeteries are historic (Chandler Gray is not).

There was discussion about the possible designs and materials. Mr. Ellis suggested that the should be complete before Town Meeting, so that people know what they are voting on. Ms. Armstrong agreed to come back with a design.

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#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The CPC reviewed the following correspondence:

1. Application #171-FY17 - Peter Homer Park Playground Supplemental Information
2. CPA FY17 Grant Summary Report as of 11/4/16

#### **ADJOURN**

As there was no further business, Ms. McGurrin moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. Ms. Walsh seconded. The vote was unanimous, 8-0.

#### **HANDOUTS AT THE MEETING** (Located in the Department of Community Development):

1. Town of Yarmouth Parks and Recreation Field Revenue Information, 11/4/2016

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Copeland  
Program Coordinator

  
Mary Ann Walsh, Clerk

