**Town of Plympton Community Preservation Committee Minutes**

**February 4, 2020; 7:00 pm**

**Plympton Town House, Plympton, MA**

The meeting was called to order at:  7:00 p.m.

Members In attendance:  Chairman Mark Russo, Deb Anderson, Rick Burnett; Irv Butler, Susan Ossoff, Jane Schulze

Also in attendance:  Jon Wilhelmsen; Linda Leddy

**Potential Project Application from Open Space Committee**

Chairman Russo explained that there has been a  recently submitted CPC application for grant matching funds.  The deadline for submitting projects is October 15 but there are provisions for time sensitive projects to be submitted at other times.  He urged caution for projects outside of the normal deadlines unless there are special circumstances.  Deb Anderson said that this application does not constitute an emergency need and so should not be considered outside the normal project deadlines.

Financially, there is currently approximately $32,000 in the Historic Reserve, $108,000 in the Housing Reserve, $0 in the Open Space Reserve, and $170,000 in the Undesignated fund.

Linda Leddy explained about the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) which helps town prepare for climate change.  She spoke with the local MVP coordinator and on April 1 they will publish guidelines for grants and grant applications are due 6 weeks after.  These grants require a 25% match so there needs to be a source of grant matching funds.  She wanted to start a discussion about whether CPC funds could be a source of matching funds.

She spoke with Bill Napolitano at the Southeast Regional Planning Agency and there is help available to prepare grants.  A planning grant would help identify priorities for the next grant cycle.  No matching funds are needed for this April, but she is concerned about timing issues for a grant for next year – by the October 15 deadline she would not have the information needed to know what matching funds might be necessary.

Jon Wilhelmsen suggested doing a placeholder CPC application in October.  Mark Russo said he is concerned about the current application because there is no specific project.  He said matching grant funds could be obtained at an annual or special Town Meeting.

Linda Leddy said she would withdraw the application before the CPC and would put it in as a placeholder for MVP for the next funding cycle in October.

Mark Russo made a motion to put consideration of the application for grant matching funds on hold for now.  The motion was seconded by Irv Butler and passed by a vote of 6-0.

**Update about on-going Projects**

Jon Wilhelmsen updated the Committee about 3 projects.  For the Old Town House project, the 5 front windows are going to be restored and if there is money left they will do touchup painting on the windows.

The Gazebo needed structural support to help with the roof; Rick Burnett donated the structure inside the roof.  The masonry is done but will require some ongoing maintenance.  There is some electrical and lighting work and painting left to be done.

The Dennett School playground project required some additional funding which is going to come from School Choice funds.  The original project was for $228,000 of which CPA funded $94,000 and school choice funds $134,000; the school choice funds will now total $164,000.  It will be done in 3 phases.  The project needs to be put out to bid.

**Bills for payment**

There is a bill for the Community Preservation Coalition annual dues of $300.  On a motion by Mark Russo, seconded by Deb Anderson, it was voted 6-0 to approve the payment of the Coalition dues.

**Minutes for approval**

Mark Russo made a motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2019 with a minor correction.  The motion was seconded by Deb Anderson and approved by a vote of 6-0.

**Surcharge Discussion**

The CPA surcharge in Plympton is 1.5%.  An increase to 3% would represent an increase of $60/year to the average household but would net the Town $200,000 more in funds.  If a community has a surcharge of 3% it makes it eligible for further rounds of matching funds.  The problem is that based on DOR guidance, following a Town Meeting vote for a surcharge increase, the time requirements for a ballot vote do not allow for it to be on the May ballot.  A discussion of a possible surcharge increase will be further discussed in the future.

**Town Meeting Articles**

Mark Russo explained that with no CPC projects to present, the only articles on the Town Meeting warrant are the usual housekeeping articles.  On a motion by Mark Russo, seconded by Deb Anderson, it was voted 6-0 to authorize Mark Russo to prepare the CPC housekeeping Town Meeting articles.

**Adjourn**

On a motion by Mark Russo, seconded by Jane Schulze, it was voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM.