

PLYMPTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014, 6:00 P.M.

Greetings/Opening - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. CPC members in attendance: Mark Russo, Judy Dudley, Deb Anderson, Jane Schulze, Irv Butler, Susan Osoff, Rick Burnet, Dave Chandler. Also in attendance was Linda Leddy from the Open Space Committee.

Minutes Approval – The minutes from the Sept 16 meeting were reviewed, and approved. Jane Schulze made a motion that we accept the minutes from the Sept 16 meeting. Deb Anderson seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Project Updates

1. Winnetuxet Project – The tree work is complete. The benches are being raised and refurbished. The Historical Commission has been contacted about verbiage on the sign. Excavation will begin on the next day off. (Note: the contractor is a cranberry grower, so it is a busy time right now.) Mass Fish & Game stocks the Winnetuxet River with trout each spring, and they have been contacted about the possibility of stocking the renovated “swim hole” at Winnetuxet. No answer yet.
2. Churchill Park Project – Two work days were held recently and a third may be held on Nov 9. A few walkways were built, and all of the posts are up on both sides. Brush has also been cleared. There is also activity on the outer trails. Friday three members of Wildlands Trust walked the trails and GPS’d them. The temporary access afforded by the McMorrow family is being terminated. Open Space is seeking permission to make path from O’Neil property off Ring Road which would serve as a new temporary legal access. Open Space is happy to report that they have \$21,000 in hand from Friends of Plympton fundraiser, and the matching donors are also giving \$9,000. The group plans to sell planks at school craft fair in Nov and PHS craft fair in Dec. Additionally, there will be an all-town mailing to every house in Plympton suggesting planks might make great holiday gifts etc. The group has also learned that they do, in fact, need a building permit, which kicks in an automatic zoning permit. In terms of the \$45,000 that CPC gave there is approximately 3,000 left. Open Space needs to come up w/ another \$5k, although it may possibly come from donors.
3. Historical Society Lift – the chairlift is installed and is working great. The invoice has not arrived yet, but as soon as it does they will forward to CPC for payment.
4. Planning grant to Open Space in the amount of \$15k – have not spent any of that grant yet. Have employed Cape Cod Compact to submit proposal which can, perhaps, be used for Parsonage project.
5. Parsonage – Rick and Linda reported that Parsonage has had a little set back. We were hopeful that USDA would be able to move this property to the Town of Plympton for a price. Instead they have decided that the property will go out to auction. There are 36 acres of land. One portion is protected public land and a portion is wet; however, 15-16 are dry and can be used. The group reached out to Trust for Public Land (a national nonprofit for conservation). Linda said that when groups want to hold and protect land for long term, often TPL can move in and become holding company for the land. Their job is help get the land “off the table”. Linda explained the Parsonage situation to TPL, and they seem

interested in taking it on for us. Linda will write a letter and TPL will, in turn, need a variety of sign offs on their end to get it approved. It was also suggested that we speak with The Nature Conservancy. TNC has been trying to get lands adjacent to the Winnetuxet, so this could be attractive to them as well. Rick talked to someone at TNC and they are also interested in talking with us. Wildlands Trust has worked with both groups in the past and has had success. TPL would front the money, and then a proposal would come in to CPC. Linda requested that Jane look into exactly how old the Parsonage house is. Mark Russo said they estimated that \$100k would be needed to fix both BOH violations that are currently in place on Parsonage. He also said that the BOH wants to put daily fines in place for each day that the violations are not fixed. Mark has informed BOH of these larger conversations going on about Parsonage, and he has asked them to hold off on fines. Linda inquired if any analysis has been done to know if there is anything "hazardous" on the land or in the trailers. Mark said they are unsure, but this is quite possibly part of the BOH violations. Linda asked if Mark or Rick would call John at USDA and BOH to see if we can obtain a better assessment of what are the violations. Susan suggested that between now and the next meeting Linda and the Open Space committee submit a "placeholder" application for Parsonage.

Other Business

1. Financial report – by next year we can expect to have \$7k in historic kitty, and budget reserve of \$242k.

Next Meeting Our next meeting is scheduled for November 25, at 6:00 p.m. The focus of this meeting will be to review any new proposals.

Adjournment: Mark Russo made a motion to adjourn. Deb seconded and the CPC unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Dudley on behalf of the CPC.