

Note: These proposed minutes should be considered preliminary until they are approved by the board at a future meeting.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021
REGULAR MEETING - 7:00PM
REMOTE LOCATION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Lara Dubin, Chair (LD), Robin Conley (RC), Mary King (MK), Tony Mateo (TM), Carol Pike (CP), Joe Stacy (JS)

Members Absent: Tammy Pelletier

Others in Attendance: Lindsay McCarthy, Julia (*last name unknown*), Cheryl George, Amy Glover, Mike LaRue, Bruce Wooster

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chair LD called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

I. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MILL BROOK TRAILS RESTORATION PRESENTATION

Julia, of the Open Space Committee, gave a presentation, including slides, on the proposed project to restore the Mill Brook trails. Highlights included:

- ☐ The trails' location.
- ☐ What needs to be repaired or replaced.
- ☐ Plans to add a boardwalk across the marsh to increase pedestrian accessibility.
- ☐ Plans for trail repair and erosion control.
- ☐ Plans to add benches, kiosks, and signs.
- ☐ That all of the labor for this project is volunteer.
- ☐ The funding requested is for materials.
- ☐ The total request is \$5,530.
- ☐ The project's organizers have a good relationship with the Snow family, who owns part of the land on which the trails sit.
- ☐ A future goal: to repair the snowmobile trail. This plan is not included in the current proposal to the CPC.

Discussion between Committee members, Julia, and attendees ensued. Subjects included:

- ☐ The snowmobile bridge, and if, in its current state, pedestrians can use it.
- ☐ Snowmobiles and mountain bikes using the trails, and the possible implications and restrictions of snowmobiles on the trails.
- ☐ The project's timeline. Julia explained that if the funding is approved, small projects could begin in the summer. TM pointed out the timeline for Town Meeting and how it relates to this project.
- ☐ Trail maintenance.
- ☐ Volunteer recruitment methods.

- ☐ The Mill Brook Trails website.
- ☐ Sourcing construction materials.
- ☐ The dimensions of the bridges and the relative safety of different bridge sizes.

TM requested the Open Space Committee submit a letter of support from the Snow family. LD agreed this is important.

LD explained to Julia that the CPC will not vote at this meeting, but at a future meeting. When they do, LD will notify Julia of the outcome.

II. COUNCIL ON AGING STORAGE SHED PRESENTATION

CP, representing the Council on Aging, gave a presentation. Highlights included:

- ☐ CP does not have much new information.
- ☐ Because the proposed shed is on town property, Council members will soon meet with the Selectboard.
- ☐ The Council has chosen a wooden shed for aesthetic reasons.
- ☐ The shed may require limited excavating, and the Council will fund this portion of the project. It will have no effect on how much money they seek from the CPC.

LD asked about the shed's location. CP shared a document which showed the proposed location.

TM noted the Council asked the Finance Committee for funding for this project. CP responded. A discussion ensued.

LD asked about the project's timeline. CP responded: she will find out how long it will take to get the shed delivered; the Council hopes to begin the project in the early-summer to allow for in-person activities as more people get vaccinated against COVID.

TM asked about site work. CP responded: the Council will discuss this at the Selectboard meeting.

III. NES PTO PLAYGROUND PAVILION PRESENTATION

LD introduced Cheryl George and Amy Glover of the Northfield Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization.

Cheryl provided some background and history of the pavilion, including recent developments. She shared slides of similar pavilions in the area.

TM provided some history of the PTO's requests from the CPC, and what has changed in the CPC's procedures since then. TM noted the benefits of outdoor education.

Cheryl reported she spoke with Town Administrator Andrea Llamas, and that she will also speak with the Selectboard because the proposed pavilion will be on town property. She is trying to reach an official with the tech school, but has been unsuccessful.

Lindsay McCarthy asked if the plans include benches. Cheryl responded: there are picnic tables, and there may be additional picnic tables.

LD asked Cheryl and Amy how the plans will proceed if the PTO cannot find a general contractor to work on the project. A discussion ensued, with Cheryl, JP, and TM participating.

A discussion ensued on the footing of the concrete slab.

A discussion ensued on recent lumber prices.

Cheryl noted the changes this past year in the PTO's fundraising because of COVID: they raised much less money this year. She added the PTO can possibly fundraise specifically for the pavilion project.

RC asked why the PTO does not want to use tents. Cheryl responded: they are too expensive, and if the PTO buys them, they have to come down for the winter and be cleaned and stored. She added the PTO wants to spend its funds efficiently.

LD announced the CPC is not deciding whether to fund their request at this meeting, and she will contact them once the CPC has made their decision.

IV. FIRST PARISH CHURCH REPAIR OF CLOCK SURROUNDS

LD welcomed Bruce Wooster and Mike LaRue, representatives from First Parish Church.

Mike provided some background on the project, including their work with the CPC.

Bruce provided some history on the town's purchase of the clock. Mike noted the town pays the church a monthly amount to cover electricity to power the clock.

TM asked Bruce and Mike if they have worked with the contractor and insurance company to reduce the bill. Mike responded and provided some background on how the expenses accrued. Bruce added additional information.

MK noted the state CPC regulations addressing reimbursement for work already completed, and town property versus private property, and the implications for possibly establishing precedent in funding this project. TM added commentary.

LD provided some details on the correspondence she had with Andrea, and Lois Stearns, about the issue, and some history of the clock's ownership. Mike added additional background on the clock's history.

LD noted the complications of repairs to the steeple/clock supports versus the actual clock.

Mike pointed out the church's challenges, including the financial and practical challenges, and reminded the CPC that church representatives have been communicative and transparent. LD acknowledged that, and noted the constraints and guidelines the CPC has to follow, which are guided by state CPC legislation. She noted the CPC is doing their due diligence on the matter.

LD said this experience will help the CPC clarify and adjust its guidelines, and the language in its outreach materials.

LD thanked Mike and Bruce for answering the CPC's questions. Mike and Bruce thanked the CPC for

taking the time to meet with them.

A discussion ensued on why the clock is not working, and getting the clock cleaned.

LD reminded Mike and Bruce the CPC is not deciding at this meeting whether to fund their project. She will notify them of the results, and if the CPC has more questions.

V. SET NEXT MEETING TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON PROPOSALS

LD polled the committee members and set the next meeting date: February 25.

VI. OTHER UNANTICIPATED BUSINESS

JS asked whether members of groups with proposals must abstain from voting on those proposals, in compliance with conflict-of-interest guidelines. LD responded: no, not unless they, or their family members, benefit financially from the proposal. That, she noted, is the nature of the conflict-of-interest rules. A discussion ensued.

MOTION BY TM TO ADJOURN. CP SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy M. Levy from minutes taken by Wendy M. Levy.

This represents my understanding of the above dated meeting. If you have any changes, please submit them at the next meeting.