**CPC Meeting**

**October 24, 2016**

**GAR Hall**

**Attendees**: Ann Burbine, Karen Connolly (Chair), Adam Conrad, Dan Fennelly, Tom McShane, Gary Meyerson, Penny Scott Pipes, Doug Smith (Absent: Stephen Coulter)

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm

**Acceptance of Agenda** – A MOTION was made to accept the agenda; All in Favor

**APPLICATION HEARINGS:**

**SCITUATE BEACH COMMISSION** – Nancy Fay (Chair), Paula Elsmore, Stephen Tripp

Mr. Tripp said that the Scituate Beach Commission is a new board under the Recreation Commission. Their mission is to preserve and restore the beaches, to encourage use of the beaches and to improve access for all. They developed, in cooperation with the Town Administrator, a survey that was distributed in early spring and resulted in 800 responses. The three projects that are being discussed tonight reflect the results of the survey.

Ms. Fay acknowledged that there is a public perception that the beaches are neglected and they hope that these projects will begin to turn that around.

**1) Beach Boardwalk Project** – *Application for $22,726\* to provide each Town beach with ADA approved boardwalks and/or partial boardwalks where current walkways exist. The Recreation Commission will contribute $4,763\* towards the total project cost of $27,489.*

*\*Ms. Fay said they are amending their application funding request because they now have $10,000 to contribute towards the funding. This money was originally set aside for the Beach Canopy Recreation project from the Beach Revolving Funds. That project is stalled and they are now using it for this project. All the necessary approvals have been completed to do this.*

Ms. Fay said that the beaches are not ADA compliant and this is an important issue. She noted that all of the Scituate beaches are unique and have their own ecosystems and access, which will require different solutions.

For Egypt Beach they recommend changing the boardwalk to a composite material with a large enough landing at the top that would accommodate two wheelchairs at one time. She explained that the current boardwalk is in deplorable condition. They will be getting three quotes/bids for the boardwalk construction. DPW has quoted $13,000.

For the Minot, Sand Hills, Peggotty and Humarock beaches they are recommending Mobi-Mats, which are ADA compliant and are used by the National Seashore and by all the MDC beaches. The mats come in various lengths, are unrolled and staked into the sand. Minot will need one 100’ mat, Sand Hills will need two 50’ mats, and Peggotty Beach will need a 100’ mat. These are easy to install and store.

* Mr. Fennelly, who is the CPC liaison to the Recreation Commission, suggested that the amended application be discussed with the Recreation Commission. He cautioned that the DPW’s quote for labor may be a lot lower than other construction companies, which will impact the funding needs. He asked about the life expectancy for the Mobi-Mats. Ms. Fay said that it is between 12-15 years but it depends on how much use they get.
* Ms. Scott Pipes asked about the maintenance of the mats. Ms. Fay said maintenance is very minimal and would most likely be done by the DPW. She needs to confirm this with the DPW, but added that, if we know a storm is coming, it is very easy to roll them up and store them until it passes.
* Mr. Meyerson suggested that a contingency be added to the funding request.

**2) Shade Structures Project** – *Application for $50,000 to place two shade structures near the entrance of Egypt Beach, Peggotty Beach and Minot Beach\*, depending on environmental rulings.*

Mr. Tripp noted that the need for shade structures at the beaches was identified back in 2006 and received many responses from the recent survey.

Ms. Elsmore gave a booklet to the Board to review. As mentioned above, the Shade Structure project had started at the Recreation Department. The Beach Commission reviewed the initial plans and felt that they could do something more permanent and attractive. Their plan is to repurpose four of the leftover metal trestles from the refurbished Train Station Canopy and cover them with shade cloth from the Atlantic Sail and Canvas Company. *Ms. Elsmore shared a sample with the Board.*

She explained that they are asking for $50,000 because they are not sure about the final construction costs. They have received three quotes so far: 1) Atlantic Canvas Company, 2) Anderson Structural Engineering, and 3) General Sand Blasting, the same company that prepared the trestles for the train station. Their quote is for $1,000 per trellis, which includes sand blasting and coats of zinc, epoxy and urethane, a process that will last for 10 years.

She is in contact with three construction companies, including the one that did the trestles work at the Train Station. They are leaning towards that company because they know the process involved.

* Mr. Smith said that the leftover trestles may be the weakest. He voiced concern about how they will be mounted in the sand, citing safety issues with wind. He is concerned about the estimates received so far and that they may be too low.
* Mr. Fennelly asked for confirmation on the structures and clarification on the estimates submitted with the application. He suggested that the application be updated to reflect costs and estimates associated directly with this project.
* Mr. Meyerson voiced concerns about the safety of the structures and having them hold up in a big storm. Mr. Tripp reminded him that the structures will be in the parking lots. Mr. Meyerson cautioned that they “need an engineer who is qualified to make that call”.
* Mr. Conrad asked for confirmation and a schematic on where the structures will be placed. His concern is for the residents in the Peggotty Beach area because that area tends to get hit harder than Egypt Beach in a storm. A lot of damage could occur.
* Mr. McShane said that the original application mentioned Egypt, Peggotty and/or Minot Beach. He asked why Minot Beach is no longer being considered as a site for a structure. Mr. Tripp said they did not have enough trestles for all three beaches and Minot did not have enough area for the structure.
* Ms. Scott Pipes said that she doesn’t think the parking lot is the place for the shade, with no view of the beach. She noted that umbrellas can provide shade at the beach. Ms. Elsmore and Mr. Tripp said that the concept of the project was to create a “landing spot” or a “transition spot” for families, the elderly, the handicapped, and the lifeguards during lunch.
* Ms. Burbine asked for clarification on the size of the structures and how the shades will be supported. She is concerned that there is not enough cloth; there are no seams, and no support in the center. Ms. Burbine noted that anything larger than 6’ needs support in the middle because a heavy rain will cause it to sag and strong winds will billow it. She also asked that costs associated with putting it up at the beginning of the season and taking it down at the end be added to the application.
* Ms. Connolly said that it may just be cheaper to buy tents that can be put up and taken down. This project requires a lot of engineering. Mr. Tripp said that this was considered but they were looking for a more permanent structure that could survive coastal conditions. Ms. Fay offered a historic look at how they arrived at this choice, saying that they looked at historic, longevity and appeal issues. With the history of the train, they thought the trestle as an identifier was important.
* Ms. Connolly said that a bigger plan may be worth doing so that the Beach Commission projects being presented form a look and a feel that are being developed. With the Beach Commission being new, it is a learning curve. She added that this has come up with other commissions and it is helpful if a bigger picture is presented. She also said that the abutters need to be notified about pending projects.
* Mr. Fennelly said that vandalism is a concern, and cited recent damage at the Greenbush Little League field. He suggested a more permanent roof or build in costs for replacement.

Ms. Connolly said that, for the purposes of Town meeting, it may make sense to put the three applications together as one application highlighting that this is the beginning of the Beach Commission’s larger vision for the Town.

**3) Branding/Trash Receptacles Projects** - *Application for $4,000 to re-paint trash barrels located at the beaches, town fields and recreation areas and incorporate the new “Sea Scituate” logo.*

Ms. Fay said that there are 80 barrels under recreation and beach and they are in horrible condition. She cited a recent survey conducted by the Economic Development Commission to determine what residents wanted the Town to look like, which resulted in the “Sea Scituate” logo. Ms. Fay said that for short money, they could paint the barrels Scituate Blue and incorporate the new logo for a cohesive look across Town. She added that the barrels will be more visible, and people will use them more. Trash is a huge issue in Town.

Mr. Meyerson said that he believes this is under maintenance and not eligible for CPC funds. Ms. Fay said that trash barrels are okay under recreation. He suggested that the high school could have students do it for community service. Ms. Fay thinks it is too big of a project and should be done more professionally.

Mr. Smith also believes this falls under maintenance.

Ms. Connolly cautioned that if the barrels are not “stuck to the ground” or attached to something it may be difficult to get it approved.

Mr. Fennelly said he thinks it is a great idea, but suggested they discuss it with the Recreation Commission.

There was additional discussion on other funding sources like the Beach Revolving fund or the Economic Development Commission, creating a larger Beach Commission “Beach Improvement” plan, and seaweed removal issues.

**CEDAR POINT ASSOCIATION** – Dave Ball

**Lighthouse Benches/Trash Receptacles Application** – *Application for $20,028 to purchase and install four 8-foot benches and trash receptacles at Scituate Lighthouse. A private citizen will donate $2,650 towards the total project cost of $22,678.*

Mr. Ball said that a Scituate resident brought this to his attention and helped with the application because she was disturbed by the condition at the Lighthouse. He showed the Committee color photos of the proposed benches and receptacles and the current ones at the site. This whole area was rebuilt in 1989 with a State Urban Systems grant (75% State; 25% Town): the islands, streetlights, sidewalks, receptacles and benches were installed at that time. Mr. Ball reminded the Board that the Lighthouse is a famous site that is visited by people from all over the world, and we now have the official Cultural District designation. The area deserves a lot of respect and support from the Town. He noted that Cedar Point Association spends about $1,200 each year to maintain this area.

There are 55 gallon drums there now and the seagulls make a mess of the trash. The new ones will be cast iron with a 30 gallon liner and will have a specially designed top. These have been approved by the DPW and should last 20-30 years. Three of the new benches will be engraved as a CPC project and one as a private memorial.

Ms. Connolly said that the benches are viewed as permanent structures because they are bolted to the ground and are allowed by CPA rules. She is not sure that the trash receptacles are allowable.

Mr. Smith said if that the receptacles will be bolted into the ground he has no problem with it. Ms. Connolly will confirm this with the Coalition.

Mr. Conrad asked about maintenance of the benches. Mr. Ball said that the DPW will do that. He asked if they were working on branding with the Economic Development Commission; Mr. Ball said no. He expressed concern about the metal used on the benches and if they will hold up. Mr. Ball will look into it.

Mr. Meyerson expressed his opinion that both the benches and the receptacles should fall under DPW’s budget.

Mr. Fennelly said that the applicant should go before the Rec Commission since the Recreation box was checked off on the application.

Mr. McShane said that they should consider having the same branding that has been discussed for the Beach Commission project.

**NO. SCITUATE BEACH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION** (NSBIA)– Leslie Brigham, Leslie Dienel

**Glades Road Pocket Park Application** – *Amended Application for $27,025 to create a 2,500 square foot pocket park on the walking path or promenade on Glades Road by Minot Beach; the Beach Association will contribute $5,000 towards the total cost of $32,025.*

Ms. Brigham said that the area is now an eyesore. They would like to plant native grasses and Rosa Rugosa. They will also “plant” boulders one third into the ground. The Beach Association will be 120 years old and they will have an engraving on one of the boulders.

Ms. Connolly said that there is precedent for rejuvenating an area on Town owned property and cited the Egypt Beach Pocket Park.

Mr. Smith suggested that the $5,000 donation from the NSBIA be spent on the plantings, and keep CPC costs for the permanent structures, like the benches and the boulders.

Mr. Fennelly said that they should go before the Rec Commission since Recreation was checked off on the application.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Review Bills Paid – Ms. Connolly asked the Board how often they would like to review the paid bills. It was generally agreed that a quarterly review would be fine.

A MOTION to adjourn was made; All in Favor.

*Submitted by:*

*Mary Sprague*

*Administrative Assistant*