CPC Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 14, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

ROLL CALL OF ATTENDEES: Ann Burbine, Jill Caffrey*,* Skyler Chick, Mike Connor, Dan Fennelly, Penny Scott Pipes, Doug Smith, Meg Stillman *(absent: Suzanne Brennan)*

Additional Attendees: Teak Sherman Gardeners/*Donald Mullen, Lee Munson, Ellen Isley, Nancy Werner, Jean Shildneck, Sally Rossi-Ormon, John McCann, Lisa Bertola*; Matt McLaughlin, Little League baseball coach

Meeting was opened at 7:00 pm

Acceptance of Agenda – Mr. Fennelly made a motion to accept the agenda for June 14, 2021; Seconded by Ms. Burbine; unanimous vote (8-0).

*Roll Call Vote: Ann Burbine - yes, Jill Caffrey - yes, Skyler Chick - yes, Mike Connor - yes, Dan Fennelly - yes, Penny Scott Pipes - yes, Doug Smith - yes, Meg Stillman - yes*

Acceptance of May 10, 2021 Minutes – A MOTION was made by Mr. Fennelly to accept the minutes from May 10, 2021 as presented; seconded by Ms. Stillman; unanimous vote (8-0)

*Roll Call Vote: Ann Burbine - yes, Jill Caffrey - yes, Skyler Chick - yes, Mike Connor - yes, Dan Fennelly - yes, Penny Scott Pipes - yes, Doug Smith - yes, Meg Stillman - yes*

**APPLICATION DISCUSSIONS:**

**Land Acquisition on Pine View Drive** – The Board agreed that they did not support this one-acre land purchase. *(No application was officially submitted so no vote needed to be taken.)* Mr. Fennelly said he would notify the property owner.

**Teak Sherman Community Garden (TSCG) ($41,500)** - Jean Shildneck, Founder, TSCG; Lisa Bertola, President, Sustainable Scituate – *Application to install a permanent chain link fence, remove trees, improve water delivery and rebuild a 20-year old bridge*.

Ms. Shildneck offered a history of the TSCG, which is going into its 12th season. It is a small but successful community garden with 36 (10x10) plots maintained by multi-generational gardeners to raise organic food. She noted that each family donates at least 10 percent of their crop to the Scituate Food Pantry. Ms. Shildneck told the Board that they have previously received three small CPC grants ($3,500 in 2011, $717 in 2012, and $5,039 in 2015). Ms. Bertola noted that the TSCG also serves to educate many diverse groups on how to garden.

The garden is maintained by volunteers and they have reached a point where they need more assistance. First, they would like to install a permanent chain link fence; the current wood fence is rotting and they have been losing their crops to animals. Second, they need to do some tree removal to get more sunlight and enlarge the garden by 8-10 plots. This would protect the fence from falling limbs. A third component of the project is to install a new yard hydrant to replace the existing fixture which no longer works properly. And, fourth, they would like to replace the 20-year old bridge over the stream between the parking area and the garden. Ms. Shildneck also reviewed a tentative timetable.

Ms. Bertola said that the TSCG is part of, and managed by, Sustainable Scituate. She informed the Board that the garden was founded with grant money from the NE Grassroots Environmental Fund and with contributions from Sustainable Scituate. Maintaining the garden is largely a volunteer effort. She noted that most of the maintenance costs are handled by annual fees paid by the gardeners.

Mr. Fennelly asked how many trees would be cut down. Ms. Shildneck said that, based on recommendations by tree experts, about 20 trees would need to be cut, including invasive Norway Maples and unhealthy Black Cherry trees. The trees are fairly new and not considered valuable. Ms. Scott Pipes said that they would need to come before the Conservation Commission to get approval for the tree cutting. Ms. Burbine added that, if the trees are beyond the Town right of way, there shouldn’t be an issue.

There was an additional discussion about how much food is donated to the food pantry and that it isn’t regulated and it would also depend on how much yield a garden has. It can vary year to year.

Mr. Fennelly suggested that they add a 10% contingency fee due to overall price increases and requested more details related to cost estimates. The applicants confirmed that the bridge is not ADA compliant. Mr. Fennelly replied that, if this project is funded by CPC, it may need to be ADA compliant and told the applicants they need to contact the ADA board.

Mr. Chick also suggested the contingency fees. With the Special Town Meeting (STM) months away, prices may increase and costs may be higher. He also asked for more details about the type and size of fence: 7-8 feet tall and with black coating due to First Parish Rd being a scenic road.

Mr. Connor said that the application needs more specific information about how the garden benefits the Town. There was a general discussion about educational programs, the seniors who don’t have a back yard to garden and new residents looking for socialization.

Mr. Smith clarified the area where the trees will be cut down and suggested that they add more details on the reasons for the tree removal to the proposal.

Ms. Burbine noted that, although she sees some issues with how many people this (proposal) actually helps, she agreed with Mr. Fennelly that they need additional funds for contingencies and strongly suggested going as high as 15 percent.

Mr. Fennelly offered to assist with reaching out to the ADA Board.

**Letter regarding JV Baseball Field**

Mr. Fennelly discussed the history of the JV field in Scituate and the differences between 90’ fields and 60’ fields; 90’ fields are what the professional teams play on. The Town only has one 90’ field to accommodate 10-12 teams (150 players). When the High School Athletic project built the girls Varsity softball field due to Title 9 they took away a baseball field. Now, Mr. Fennelly sees a Title 9 issue with the boys.

He wanted the Board to know that an application will be submitted for the STM from Recreation or Scituate Little League.

Ms. Burbine referenced the $400,000 the Toll Bros had allocated for a soccer field behind Wampatuck School. There was a discussion about where this new field could be built, i.e. Central Field or behind the Senior Center at Recreation Field.

Mr. Smith expressed concerns that a field will be taken away from girls’ sports.

Mr. Fennelly noted that they have already taken away three baseball fields that were also used for softball.

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by unanimous vote (8/0).

*Roll Call Vote: Ann Burbine - yes, Jill Caffrey - yes, Skyler Chick - yes, Mike Connor - yes, Dan Fennelly - yes, Penny Scott Pipes - yes, Doug Smith - yes, Meg Stillman - yes*

*Submitted by - Mary Sprague*

*Documents submitted*

*- Teak Sherman Community Garden Application*

*- Letter regarding JV baseball field*