

CPC Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2017

GAR Hall

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

Additional Attendees: Dave Smith, Bill Luetter, Scituate High School Athletics

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Agenda: A motion was made to accept the agenda; All in Favor (8/0)

Discuss/Re-Vote Scituate High School Athletic Complex Project - \$350,000

Ms. Connolly explained that she received a call from Dave Smith about the project being rescinded at the February 13, 2017 meeting and she invited him to speak to the Board. She reminded the Board they agreed to rescind the money due to the fact that the project application was outdated and no new submissions or revisions had been received since it was voted on at the 2013 ATM. Ms. Connolly added that, when rescissions are made, applicants are invited to re-submit an updated version to the Board.

Mr. Smith said that the application was submitted before they knew the location for the new middle school. After it was approved at the 2013 ATM they were asked to put the project on hold until the middle school plan was complete. He explained that originally the project had three components: the press box, the skate park and the lights. The press box was removed and the skate park was done as a separate project, leaving only the lights for the various fields and the skate park. Ms. Connolly reiterated that these changes were not reflected in a revised application.

- Mr. Fennelly cautioned that, in a similar project, they were \$60,000 short due to problems with the current light poles and reinforced the need for updated numbers.
- Ms. Burbine suggested that since it is so outdated that they need to “go back to the drawing board” and submit a new application.
- Ms. Scott Pipes agreed and added that too many aspects of the project have changed, some projects have already been done, and prices have gone up.
- Mr. Coulter said that to be fair to the tax payer, they need to get updated information.
- Mr. Meyerson said that the needs of the school and sports have changed significantly. He suggested a joint plan should be done between recreation and the school to identify all the needs for the school property and then come up with a plan.
- Mr. Smith said that he would like to see new estimates and more concrete numbers.
- Mr. Conrad asked whether there could be some adjustment made to allow the design to proceed over the summer.

Mr. Luethe said that they need a proper plan for the fields and pointed to other towns doing sports complex designs. He added that lights are critical but the Title 9 issue was more critical.

- Ms. Connolly said that it may be best, based on the needs of the town, to do a combined field and lights application as a multi-year plan.
- Ms. Burbine suggested making a motion to take back \$50,000 from the \$350,000 that has been rescinded so that they could begin the design phase.
- Mr. Fennelly cautioned that just doing a design for the lights now may be putting the cart before the horse.

The 2013 ATM article was read to the Board leading to additional discussion on the pros and cons of rescinding the partial amount vs the entire amount. The Board agreed that the language in the article did not allow them to take out a partial amount and they would leave the original rescission of \$350,000 in place.

Update on Letter to CPC Communities re-equipment for water-based recreational activities

Mr. Fennelly said that, out of the 54 letters sent, they have received 15 responses: nine (9) yes and five (5) no. He discussed some of the towns and their responses.

Ms. Connolly said that she believes the towns that said no are being swayed by the CPA Coalition. There is a fear that if they go down this road, there won't be money left for open space acquisition which is the Coalition's major goal. She added that Gloucester, who said no, pointed to the fact that Massachusetts ranks third in the nation as having the highest amount of land covered by water. She believes this bolsters their claim to add water based recreation activities.

Ms. Burbine said that she had spoken to Joan Meschino who voiced her support for the change in legislation.

Old Business

Ms. Connolly said that there are still title issues with the Maxwell Trust properties. The issues go back to the 1800's.

Ms. Scott Pipes added that the Wildlands Trust has made it clear that they cannot hold a CR on land without a clear title. She has been told that titles have to "be perfectly clean" - no glitches are allowed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm; All in Favor.

*Submitted by
Mary Sprague
Administrative Assistant*

No Documents Submitted