

Community Preservation Committee Minutes

Date: November 20, 2019

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Volunteer Room, Town Hall

Attendees: Didi Chadran, John Lee, Beth Williams, Doug Thornton, Fran Nickerson, Pam Marston

Absent: Jo Ward, Michelle Catalina, Erin McBee

Guests: Peter Warren – Harvard Fire Department, Retired; Jim Burns – Conservation Commission; Marie Sobalvarro- Harvard Town Hall; Linda Dwight – Harvard School Superintendent; Scott Hoffman – Bromfield Principal; David Boisvert – Bromfield Athletic Director; Susan Mary Redinger – Harvard School Committee; Steve Victorson – Bromfield Parent; Susan Lee; John Osborn – Harvard Press

Meeting Convened at 7:31pm

1. Public Comment Period – No public comments received.
2. Review Minutes from October 23, Meeting – Minutes were approved as amended.
3. Conservation Commission – Jim Burns discussed the priority of the Conservation Commission and Community Harvest applications. Jim stated that the Commission deems the Community Harvest Application for \$500,000 over 2 years, to purchase an Agricultural Preservation Restriction as the most important for CPC funding and the ConComm application for \$200,000 towards the Conservation Fund as next important.
4. Town Hall/Civil War Tablet Restoration – Marie Sobalvarro discussed the request for \$11,217.00 for the restoration and re-gilding the text on the Civil War memorial tablets (136 names plus legend) and building frames for both tablets. Tablets are made of Tennessee marble. Tablets are currently located in Town Hall on the second floor. Gilding is estimated at \$10,650.00. Framing is estimated at 8 hours @ \$70.85 per hour. We will check with the Coalition as to whether framing can be done with CPC funding.
5. Fire Department/Historic Fire Records Preservation – Peter Warren, representing the Harvard Fire Department, discussed the application request of \$24,718.00 towards the preservation of the history of fire calls of the Harvard Chemical Company and Harvard Fire Department spanning the timeframe of 1918 through 2005. Peter read a record of a lightning storm in 1922 resulting in \$14,700 loss of property. Documents would be deacidified, mended and paper records would be reinforced, as necessary, resewn, rebound, as appropriate. Documents would also be scanned and filmed and stored in the Town Vault. Chief Sicard supports this request.

Susan Lee also read the following statement into the record:

“I would like to speak to the importance of preserving the Harvard Fire Department records.

I work with the HHS, the Historical Commission and the Harvard Conservation Trust in researching Harvard’s history concerning our historic homes, farms and the early settlers of this town. I often use the History of Harvard by Nourse, which covers important fires in Harvard up to 1892 and the History of Harvard by Harris, that covers fires in Harvard up to 1940. After that date, these very important records are the single copies now held by the Harvard Fire Station.

I will give one example of the importance and interest of these records to our town.

I am researching 23 and 25 Slough Road. These parcels were all part of a 70 acre 1830’s farm.

The old house on the property was taken down in 1910 and replaced by what was described as a mansion. The problem is the house that is there now would not be described as a mansion.

I went to Mr. Warren and asked if he could help me with any further information about a fire said to have occurred in 1930. He kindly sent me the following:

October 2, 1930 – 10 P.M. Cone fire. House a complete loss about \$25,000.00 Both trucks responded and found no water except a little in the well which was used to save the cottage and barn. 6 firefighters responding were Ripley, Mac, Leo, Bill, Farnsworth and Madigan.

The cottage that was saved was the Charlie Waite house.

There is a lot of information in this short paragraph. It is very important that these fire notebooks be preserved as they are so crucial to our town history and as of now the only copies.”

6. Harvard School District/ Court Resurfacing & Engineering Study – Linda Dwight, Scott Hoffman, David Boisvert & Susan Mary Redinger discussed the court resurfacing & engineering study application of \$110,000.00. The resurfacing of the tennis & basketball courts would repair cracks to provide a better playing surface for students and town players. The courts were last resurfaced in 2012. The courts are utilized by students and the community for basketball, tennis & pickle ball. The engineering study is to assist in the long-term planning of a full renovation of the current courts with potential to add additional courts to the playing area. The engineering quotes include design, construction documents and project oversight.
7. Treasurer’s Report – John Lee presented draft estimates of CPC funding. With FY2020 State contribution of approximately \$32,617 and Town Collections, CPC has approximately \$335,678.00 towards funding. Current FY2021 requests total \$788,549.00 (shortfall of \$452,871.00).

Stuart Saginor of the Coalition is looking for the check from Harvard for CPC dues. Didi gave John the bill from the Coalition and John will submit to Town Hall for payment.

8. New Business:

- Didi announced that Erin McBee will replace Kristin Kelley-Munoz as the Planning Board liaison to CPC .
- Proposal to add Environmental Review Form to the Application Process: Discussion was held as to whether to add an Environmental Review to the CPC Grant Application process (i.e. Life of the project, Green energy options). It was suggested that the Environmental Review be added to the checklist.
- Pam Marston spoke with Doug Slade re: CPC signage. CPC logo needed. It was suggest that we use the Town's logo. Pam will research further.
- Didi suggested that we move the CPC meetings to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

9. Action Items

- Michelle Catalina will work on updating the CPC page on the Town website.
- Pam Marston will find a vendor for CPC sign/banner for ongoing projects
- Michelle Catalina will contact Liz Allard to find out Con Comm's listing for recent purchases.
- John Lee to check with Coalition regarding framing of Civil War Memorial tablets.
- Didi will forward Falmouth CPC article to the Board.

10. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 9:39pm

Next CPC Meeting: December 11, 2019.