

Community Preservation Committee

Joseph Greeley, Chairman
John Hall, Vice Chairman
Cheryl Doyle, Recording Secretary
John J. Aprea III
Helen Abdallah Donohue
Patricia Griffin Starr
Debbie Holmwood
Peter McFarland



**Director of Community
Planning and Economic
Development**

Paul Halkiotis, AICP

Assistant Planner

Patrick Deschenes

Community Preservation Committee Meeting

2/13/2019

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Room 24

Norwood Town Hall

PRESENT:

John Aprea
Helen Abdallah Donohue
Cheryl Doyle
Joe Greeley
Patricia Griffin Starr
John Hall
Debbie Holmwood
Peter McFarland

Also Present:

Patrick Deschenes, Assistant Town Planner
Paul Halkiotis, Town Planner

ABSENT:

Approval of Minutes 2/6/19

MOTION to table minutes until next meeting by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Ms. Griffin Starr.

All in favor.

CPA Applications Review

Saint Lot Purchase

Mr. Halkiotis gave a presentation on the Saint Lot and the background behind it being available for purchase.

Mr. Halkiotis stated how the land would be an asset for community and could provide much needed green space for the neighborhood, but if bought would now be maintained to a higher quality as Town owned land.

Mr. Halkiotis also stated that the appraisal was almost finished and that the appraiser had given him a figure, but because it was a land acquisition it would be better to discuss the appraisal in executive session at a later date.

Ms. Doyle stated that executive session would need to be on the agenda anyway if they wanted to talk about it.

Mr. Halkiotis stated that if the price were to be lower than what the seller thinks the property is worth they may want to conduct their own appraisal.

Mr. Hall asked were else had the appraiser done work in Norwood.

Mr. Halkiotis stated the appraiser had done the appraisal for Forbes Hill property.

Mr. Hall asked about the benefits to this project compared to other similar projects.

Ms. Donohue stated that she believed that this project would be a good thing for the Town and especially the abutting neighborhood.

From the audience Ms. Patty Bailey stated that she was happy to have this property close to being Town land and that she was cautiously optimistic.

Mr. Greely stated that this would ultimately be up to Town Meeting vote.

The Committee discussed the educational component to the project and its relation to the other proposed project for the low Balch rehabilitation.

Trails Study

Mr. Halkiotis gave a brief presentation with background information that lead to the Planning Department taking the lead on this project and the more defined changes that they would pursue. He proposed hiring a landscape architect to design walking trails on two properties instead of conducting a town wide trails study.

Mr. Halkiotis wanted to hear from the Committee on whether this change was deemed to be appropriate before continuing forward with the application.

Ms. Donohue stated that she would want to know what the Trail Committee thought of this change.

Mr. Greeley (who is the Chairman of the Trails Committee) stated that this new application will create a real trail system off of University Avenue that the Town does not currently have.

Ms. Doyle stated that the study should properly identify land ownership as well as the easements that go through the land.

Ms. Donohue stated that she wished for the new trail to eventually reach the pumping station on Route One.

MOTION by Mr. McFarland to change trail study to the Planning Department's application, seconded by Ms. Doyle.

All in favor.

At this point Mr. Halkiotis gave his full presentation of the trail project proposal.

Mr. Hall stated that he was concerned about the process and would need cost estimates. Mr. Halkiotis stated that it is a lot of work that goes into a cost estimate for such a thing, so he wanted to have Committee's approval to change the scope of the project first before asking a landscape architect for this favor.

Ms. Doyle asked if this was just a study/design plan or would there be implementation right away. Mr. Halkiotis stated that it was just the first step so only a study/design plan.

Ms. Doyle stated she did have concerns about hunters using the land with it being open up with a trail and that it would need proper signage.

Ms. Holmwood suggested "In memory benches" for the new trails.

Mr. Hall stated that this was more of a modification than a totally new project.

Setting Public Hearing Date

Mr. Hall asked whether setting up meeting with various Boards like the Finance Commission was still needed.

The Committee stated that they felt this was still applicable.

Mr. Greeley stated that a line item should be added to present projects with the Finance Commission, Seletmen, and PBCC is needed.

MOTION to have the public hearing for the projects on March 13th, seconded by Ms. Donohue.

All in favor.

Project Review

Mr. Greeley discussed the scoring sheet that the subcommittee worked on in the fall.

It was discussed by the Committee that they should grade independently and bring their grading sheets to the next meeting.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mr. Hall.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:
Patrick Deschenes, Assistant Town Planner