

CARVER CPC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:December 17, 2020

Called to Order: 7:02 pm

Zoom Meeting

{Present if noted}*

*Bob Bentley, Chair

*Dan Badger

*Fran Mello

*Gail Nauen

*Mary Ross

*Cornelius Shea

Ellen Sordillo

*Kevin Tracey

Margaret Wood

*Darlene Whittemore, Secretary

Chair Bentley stated that he had no requests from the public to join the Zoom Meeting as noted in the Agenda.

Mr. Shea made a correction from Steering to Study Committee in line 5 in the minutes of November 19, 2020 and motioned to approve; Ms. Ross seconded. Ms. Mello was not present for the vote.

VOTE: 3 to 1 (absent at time of vote) to 3 (abstentions)

Old Business

1. Review of on-going projects:

- a. Elementary School Fields project - Ms. Ross stated the project as complete.
- b. Update on the ballfields/playground project. Ms. Ross stated that Dave Siedentopf reported the fields as done and accepted the playground. She stated that \$11,000 is needed to complete the safety fence; decisions were made and the Recreation Department feels responsible for this repair. Chair Bentley stated the funds have been spent and that any additional CPC funding would require approval at town meeting.

New & Continuing Business:

2. Bills payable. None

3. Discussion of submitted projects with questions being asked of the project's proponents.

- a. Union Society - historical preservation. - Chair Bentley stated the request as \$60,000 and that he has not spoken to Town Council to get their opinion in regards to the project meeting or not meeting Chapter 99; separation of church and state. Mr. Moore stated that he received an additional letter of support to add to the 8 or 9 others. He indicated that some reference the building as a church because that is how they recognize it and others recognize it with historic significance. He also stated that Henry Griffith wrote about the significance of the church as being non denomination. Chair Bentley stated that the non church vs state situations have to be clear and that he would speak to the Town Administrator and Town Council regarding this request.

Ms. Mello joined the meeting at 7:23 pm.

- b. ConComm/Buzzards Bay - open space/recreation - Chair Bentley stated the project at \$220,000 total with a CPC request for \$190,000 with \$30,000 funded by the Buzzards Bay Coalition. Mr. Allen Decker apologized that Ms. Monroe was not able to attend the meeting but that he would represent this land conservation open space project as a partnership with the Town of Carver. He described the Buzzards Bay Coalition as sufficiently staffed with the ability to maintain properties. He further stated that they have developed a volunteer group who regularly visits properties and reports any need for trail repairs, dumping or defacing of the landscape. The coalition addresses any issues and does not condone eye soars; the land must be accessible by the public. He stated that the coalition would like to connect trails and enhance accessibility to Sampson's Pond for the proposed property. Ms. Mello asked about when the coalition was formed and Mr. Decker stated that the Buzzards Bay Coalition was formed in the late 1980's to focus on environmental issues in Buzzards Bay, provide education for children and for adult recreation. He further stated a science component where they focus on improving water quality in the Buzzards Bay Watershed to protect wildlife and fishing. They are also land stewards with approximately 1500 acres of land entity and stated 10,000 members where he is one of five working on the watershed protection; he also works with restoration and reaches out to funding grant source opportunities through private, federal, state and local support hence the request to the Carver CPC. Ms. Ross inquired about completion of a proposed project if funding sources are not available and he responded that the coalition has been very successful with multiple small awards and he has ideas to enhance and seek out grants and work with Boy Scouts. He stated that the coalition has the resources to create trails but that he would need to contract a parking lot through contracting. Ms. Mello inquired if they explored other funding options so that the Town of Carver doesn't entirely fund a non town owned property and Mr. Decker stated that they are under consideration for a state grant but has not received a response but that the CPC request is a large component of their strategy. He further stated that the Town of Carver would benefit from the use of the property and the permanent restriction will continue to allow the public use. Ms. Mello stated that the town has several open space areas with trails and asked him what he could bring to the area that we do not have? Mr. Decker suggested the Committee visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org for more information about Bay adventures with a list of places to go. Ms. Mello inquired about what would happen if the organization disbanded and Mr. Decker stated that he could not speak with authority on the question but that they have had success with other towns. Ms. Ross inquired about pond frontage and Mr. Decker responded that the proposed property is across the street from the pond with about 1.4 acres.

Ms. Mello made a motion to work with the coalition on a date to perform a site walk on the proposed properties, Mr. Shea seconded.

VOTE 7 to 0

Ms. Nauen inquired about how the acquisition would work and Mr. Decker's response was to first acquire the property, attract funding to create a parking area and construct board walkers. Mr. Badger inquired about a Memorandum of Understanding and timeline and Mr. Decker stated that if the coalition is successful that the property would be acquired in June of 2021 with an event open to the public in the summer and fall. He stated in general about 1 to 1.5 years for completion. Ms. Mello inquired about a plan from the coalition and when the decision is expected on the state grant. Mr. Decker agreed to reach out to the coalition regarding the plan and stated that he has no date on the expected decision from the state grant. Ms. Mello asked to provide examples of past projects along with their timeline of development and what was accomplished and supported by the committee. Mr. Shea requested to see the restriction and basic maintenance schedule assurance if any and if the town of Carver has input. Mr. Decker stated that the deed restriction would be placed in perpetuity and the new ownership would be the same. Discussion ensued regarding the fact that Carver does not have the option to purchase, the owners appearance to desire the coalition by selling below market value, and that 28 acres are presently not accessible to the public. Mr. Moore concluded by stating that the town doesn't have the funding to build trails and do what the BBC can do with the properties.

4. Discussion of other potential projects.

- a. Cole Property recreation? Mr. Badger stated that the proposal is not completed but he presented the project online in the zoom meeting. He stated that he will submit this project as a member of the Conservation. The proposal for skilled construction was presented by Fiske Construction where he will support volunteer labor. The suspension bridge was described as 50 feet long in order to avoid seasonal flooding. Mr. Badger stated a request for \$22,500 and described the cost as \$15,000 in materials, \$5200 for transportation and logistics, \$1300 for Fiske Construction Company and \$1000 for permit cost. Mr. Badger stated that he is not requesting the approximate \$200 for RDA cost. Mr. Badger invited the Committee to join on a site walk on 12/18/20 at 10:30 - 11 am. Ms. Mello inquired about the life span of the bridge and Mr. Badger responded that he talked to Maine Fisheries who had a similar project in a less protected area and estimates about 25 years. Chair Bentley inquired about ideas to keep out all terrain vehicles and Mr. Badger stated that a pylon or bowler is proposed to be installed on both ends. Ms. Ross inquired about timeline and what portion of the funding this would fall under. Chair Bentley stated open space and recreation and Mr. Badger estimated if approved permitting would be done in May, acquire materials and begin construction in the summer, cabling in September and a dedication in October.

- b. Other recreation? none
5. Other issues which may arise. Mr. Badger stated that he plans to meet with Mr. LaFond to discuss the affordable housing option for veterans; he would be seeking other funding options as the CPC deadline has approached.
6. Set next meeting date and adjourn. The next meeting is scheduled to be a public meeting and is set for January 28, 2021 at 7 pm.
Mr. Shea motioned to adjourn; Ms. Ross seconded. Unanimous.
VOTE: 7 - 0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Submitted by:


Darlene Whittemore, Secretary