

Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of meeting

October 4, 2010

The Community Preservation Committee met on Monday October 4, 2010 at the rear of the Town Office building. The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. as scheduled by Chair Janet Chayes.

Present: Janet Chayes, Malcolm Corse, Martha Conant, Marcella Morgan, David Barten.

Subjects per agenda:

1. New member introduction. The two new members, Marcella Morgan and David Barten, were introduced by Janet and then introduced themselves. Marcella Morgan is currently a member of the Conservation Commission and Parent Teachers Organization chairperson. David Barten is a member of the Historical Commission and has been a member of the Cultural Council. Because the CPA Committee needed a secretary, Barten volunteered to write minutes.

2. Vacancies: Janet pointed out that there are still two vacancies given that membership can be between 5 and 7 members. Committee is missing representatives from planning board, and parks and recreation.

3. Membership by-law: A problem posed by the lack of a by-law describing configuration of committee and how appointed as required by law. Problem deemed a technical oversight; the town has been following the state law's provisions on composition and appointment of the committee. The Selectboard's Administrative Assistant Tom Spiro brought the problem to the attention of state officials in July of 2010. We reviewed the exchanges between Stuart Saginor, Exec. Dir. of the state Community Preservation Coalition, to Janet Chayes (July 13, 2010); several emails regarding matter on July 27, 2010, Conway Select Board/Tom Spiro to Henry Williams, Williams in response to Kathleen Colleary, Colleary to Williams, and

Williams to Tom Spiro, and then Spiro to Janet Chayes. Tom's recommendation, given comments from state officials, was either (1) to hold a STM (special town meeting) to adopt by-law or (2) to hold a vote at next ATM (annual town meeting) and not submit projects for next year.

Given that a possible application is in the works, mentioned by Janet, the committee thought it best to follow option (1) above and the secretary of committee will discuss matters with Tom Spiro after this meeting to establish date for such a special meeting. He and Tom determined that such a meeting has to be held 90 days before ATM, scheduled for April 4, 2011. Thus date for STM would have to be before end of 2010, likely late November or early December. (No date was established as yet.)

As regards writing a by-law, Janet called for volunteers and Marcella and David will research other town versions, Goshen's being in hand courtesy of Stuart Saginor. Suggested versions are to be presented at next scheduled meeting.

4. No projects have officially been directed to the CPA as of October 4, but a possible project is in the works in which Christian Elwell would ask money to help to buy bottomland abutting Natural Roots farm, which occupies 7 acres of Elwell's property along the river. Elwell's 63 forested acres are already protected through the Franklin Land Trust, but bottomland farm property needs protection from development on borders through purchase of small parcels.

5. Next meeting scheduled for October 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the rear of the Town Offices. The new meeting date was posted with Tom Spiro immediately after the CPA Committee ended at 3:15 p.m. The single item listed for the agenda for the meeting is the discussion of proposed by-laws.

Respectfully submitted,

David Barten

Secretary

