

Town of Conway
Community Preservation Committee
Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2024

Meeting began at 6 pm.

Members in Attendance: Jocelyn Forbush, Aimee Anderson, Carolyn Thayer, Brittany Nickerson, Hank Hortsman, Jack Farrell.

Also in attendance: Parks and Recreation Committee and several citizens of Conway.

1. Approval of meeting minutes of December 11, 2023 moved to next meeting agenda.

2. The Community Preservation Committee welcomes new member Jack Farrell.

3. Presentation and of application for funding of \$140,000 for the building of four pickleball courts. Jan Warner of the Parks and Recreation Committee was invited to begin the presentation.

The new application proposes a site behind Conway Grammar School, adjacent to the highway garage site. The site sits at the top of a hill with a lovely view. The nearest residence to the site is at the bottom of the hill. Access to the site would be use of the grammar school grounds driveway to cross the parking lot to the back lot parking, and a path to the courts. Parking on the highway department area is impractical due to movement of trucks, equipment and supplies.

A large portion of the work to build the courts would be carried out by the highway department under the supervision of Ron Sweet.

Discussions have been held with the principal of Conway Grammar, Kristen Gordon and staff, and the superintendent of union 38 schools, Darius Modesto, and Mary McClintock, the closest resident to the proposed site. Jan Warner stated there were no big objections to the project.

Open discussion of the project began after presentation.

Mary McClintock has expressed concern to the Parks and Recreation Committee about noise from the courts and additional water run-off down the hill due to the paved courts. The house is a considerable distance (exact distance not discussed) away and Jan Warner stated that with the way noise moves around it will probably not be a problem down the hill where the residence is located. A tree line planted at the top of the hill between the courts and the downhill side was discussed as a possibility if there are funds left over from the building costs. Ron Sweet discussed the creation of a swale near the courts to absorb and redirect water runoff from the paved courts.

Conway Grammar School concerns included security of the children as more people come on to school grounds, graffiti, parking capacity, speed of vehicles through school grounds, timing of school activities such as high traffic drop-off and pick-up times. Jan Warner stated that those concerns would be circulated among the group that plays in Conway and that at heavy traffic times the courts could be officially closed to avoid exacerbating traffic difficulties. Speed monitoring signs and speed bumps have been proposed to keep speeds within safe limits.

Committee chair has asked for a breakdown of project costs. Committee members have asked for more clarification of concerns from Conway Grammar school staff and if their concerns have been adequately addressed and if more notification and information to parents would be appropriate. A grant restriction, in keeping with most projects, was discussed as a possible step to ensure the funds are properly managed in the best interests of the town in the future. Some dissent was expressed by Ron Sweet and others as another hurdle thrown in the way of the project.

No vote taken on application. Further discussion and information needed to bring application to vote in committee.

Thank you to Jan Warner and the Parks and Recreation Committee and supporting citizens present.

4. Site visit proposed by Comm. Pres. Comm. for March 21, 2024. Site visit will be publicly posted according to public meeting rules.

5. Comm. Pres. Com. Discussion: It is the responsibility of the committee to vet all applications in preparation for Town Meeting. Questions and concerns raised in committee and competently resolved allows the citizens of Conway to make more informed decisions at Town Meeting. Grant agreements where appropriate are used to articulate the terms and commitment of funding, use of funds and project completion. Grant agreements are one vehicle to see to it that funds are properly used so as to do well by the citizens of the Town of Conway.

6. An orientation meeting for education of new members was discussed.

7. Revised meeting schedule: March 21, 2024 - site visit
April 3, 2024 - 6 pm at the Town Hall and zoom
April 10, 2024 - 6 pm at the Town Hall (if needed)

Note: The Town Warrant is due April 16, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm