

TOWN OF HARWICH

Community Preservation Committee

Approved 1.20.2022

Community Preservation Committee Regular Meeting Minutes December 9, 2021

Meeting recorded.

Call to Order

Harwich Community Preservation Committee Meeting called to order per Roll Call Vote by Chair Dave Nixon at 6:03 PM, on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at the Harwich Town Hall, Donn B. Griffin Room. VOTE Present: Chair Dave Nixon - Aye; Mary Maslowski - Aye; John Ketchum - Aye; Bob Doane - Aye; Joseph McParland III - Aye; Kathy Green - Aye; Elizabeth Harder – Aye; Carole Ridley - Aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting called to order.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(6), to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate the Chair declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body – A Land Purchase.

A motion was made by Mary Maslowski and seconded by Joe McParland III to move into Executive Session. We will return to the Regular Open Meeting following the Executive Session.

VOTE by Roll Call: Chair Dave Nixon - Aye; Mary Maslowski - Aye; John Ketchum - Aye; Bob Doane - Aye; Joseph McParland III - Aye; Kathy Green - Aye; Elizabeth Harder – Aye; Carole Ridley - Aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

Exited Open Regular CPC Meeting to enter Executive Session at 6:04 PM.

Returned to the Open Regular CPC Meeting at 6:45 PM.

REGULAR CPC MEETING

1. Welcome Guests

Public Comment

2. New Business

a) *Handout* Follow-up on HP 3, CH 4, and CH 5 from Town Administrator Joe Powers

b) Third night - Presentations of the 2021/2022 CPA Funding Requests. Ten project applications were submitted this year. Each applicant will be given 5 minutes to present, followed by a 15-minute increment of time for discussion with CPC members.

Project applications can be found on : <https://www.harwich-ma.gov/community-preservation-committee/pages/2021-2022-cpa-funding-requests-for-fy2023>

- o **R 8** Harwich Natural Heritage Trail Project, Phase 2 – Boardwalk Connector

Applicant: Harwich Conservation Trust, Executive Dir Michael Lach

Project Managers: Harwich Conservation Trust Executive Dir Michael Lach

Amount Requested: \$75,000

Presented by Harwich Conservation Trust Executive Dir Michael Lach. Consultant Nick Nelson, CERP of Inter-flu joined the meeting online. A Harwich High School graduate, he was hired to design the project. PowerPoint Presentation was given.

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- This past May at Town Meeting the Town of Harwich voters approved the CPA funding for the design and permitting of Phase 1 of the Harwich Natural Heritage Trail. The HCT hopes to partner with the Fire Association with regards to the town's Bank Street property. The Cold Brook eco-restoration project currently underway will naturalize one mile of Coldbrook, restore 44 acres of wetland habitat and water recharge, and enhance the visitor experience.
- Phase 2 of the Harwich Natural Heritage Trail is for a 100-foot boardwalk connector. They had originally planned for a 300 feet boardwalk and another entrance, but the cost was too expensive with rising costs. Reducing to 100 feet will accommodate the increase in costs.
- The application has letters of support of the project.
- Coldbrook will have a new channel of water directed through this area.
- The 100-foot berm will be replaced, as it blocks waterflow and habitat. This is not part of the CPC funded project. The boardwalk will be constructed to allow the water to flow underneath it.
- Accounting: \$ 75,000 CPC funding request
 \$ 50,000 Federal grant (already granted)
 \$ 50,000 State grant (applying to receive)
 \$175,000 Project cost

Committee points/questions:

- Suggestion: a visitor viewing area would be handy.
- They are trying to re-naturalize the stream channel, bringing the area back to what it was before the cranberry bogs changed things. Re-routing the stream channel is not part of the CPC funded project. During the construction, the water will be diverted to the old bogs, covert. An excavator will build the new channel. When that is complete, they will divert the waterflow back.
- Both Falmouth and Plymouth have completed similar boardwalk projects.
- The wooden boardwalk will be about 1 1/2 feet above the bog, and higher over the channel. Vegetation will grow around it, like seen in the similar boardwalk project in Falmouth.
- Phase 1 is not contingent on Phase 2, and vice versa.
- If they do not get the funding for Phase 2, they will need to reassess.
- The town's new sewage system is addressing the nitrogen reduction.
- **H 2** East Harwich Union Cemetery Gravestones Restoration
Applicant: Harwich Town Administrator Joe Powers
Project Manager: Harwich Cemetery Administrator Robbin Kelley
Amount Requested: \$118,800

Presented by Harwich Cemetery Administrator Robbin Kelley.

- This project funding was requested last year, but the project did not move forward. More detailed documentation is included in this year's application.
- The gravestones of the East Harwich Union Cemetery need repair and cleaning. The project: Repair 45 monuments; Reset or fix foundations of 158 headstones, footstones, and corner markers; Clean 265 memorials. All headstones appear to be repairable. But some stones soon will not be readable. Some stones are broken into pieces. Missing pieces will be added. Until the work is started, we don't know if missing pieces are just buried. The foundations will be dug downward and rebuilt as needed.
- The restored cemetery markers will be photographed and will be available digitally.

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- The project: \$108,000 quote for job
\$ 10,800 10% contingency
\$118,800 project funding request

Committee points/questions:

- It was noted this cemetery lacks maintenance, looking as unattractive as last year. The Harwich DPW oversees the grounds. Trees are down, but they are located off the cemetery. Shrubs are uprooting stones. Railings need attention. Safety and maintenance need to be addressed.
- The application contains a bid from the same company that did the Mount Pleasant Cemetery restoration. That completed job looks even better two years later. If this project is funded, they plan to get five bids for the work. The companies need to have certification and know what they are doing. Different types of stone require different treatment.
- Following a 1949 Town Meeting Article, the town took over the care and custodial duty of the cemetery. A care perpetual fund was used to address that.
- This cemetery has some graves from the Revolutionary and Civil War, their gravestones may be lost.
- **R 10** Brooks Park Pickle/Basketball Court Project
Applicant: Harwich Town Administrator Joe Powers
Project Manager: Harwich Recreation Director Eric Beebe
Amount Requested: \$245,500

Presented by Harwich Recreation Director Eric Beebe

- The Brooks Park project will create four more pickleball courts and will expand an existing half basketball court to a full-size basketball court.
- Pickleball is an extremely popular sport to town residents. Some 413 players signed up last year. This is a multi-age sport, popular with middle school and elementary age kids, in addition to seniors. Stats on the sport's popularity has seen growth increase some 28% and is split almost evenly among all ages. Due to the popularity, sign-ups are for just Harwich residents. (Although the Rec Dept. does have a short list of names, grandfathered in.)
- There were significant wait times for court time. Everyone wants to play in the mornings, compared to the afternoons, when the seniors avoid playing when it's too hot and the kids shouldn't be overheated. So open play time and the Rec programs have limited time. The Rec Dept. would like to expand clinics and offer more open play time.
- The application shows the park and court user numbers.
- The only public basketball courts are in Brooks Park.
- Brooks Park's new lights will be going in January 2022. There will be a light pole near the courts. A light fixture would be needed to provide light for the courts.
- The project quote breaks down to \$136,761 for the Pickleball courts estimated costs and \$67,493 for the Basketball court expansion estimated costs. Quote includes 10% contingency, among other costs.

Committee points/questions:

- The application wasn't signed.
- The project will need site plan review approval from the Planning Board and approval from the HDHC.

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3. Old Business

4. Other

- **R9** Harwich Headwaters Drive Bikeways Crossing Lights project and **H3** Beautify Harwich Center project were withdrawn.
- Monday, December 13, 2021 Dave will present the CPC report at the Board of Selectmen's meeting at the Harwich Town Hall. Committee members are invited to attend the meeting.
- The outside attorney, Amy Kwesell of KP Law has been sent the three non-town submitted applications. Another lawyer at the firm will be assigned to review them.
- The Town of Harwich website's home page has a listing requesting volunteers to serve on committees. Chair Nixon will request an addition be added to include the need for a second Selectmen's appointee to serve on the CPC.

5. Agenda Points for the next Meeting

- The Thursday, December 16, 2021 CPC meeting has been canceled.
- Next meeting scheduled: Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6 PM, at the Harwich Town Hall, Donn B. Griffin Room. Deliberations will begin.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mary Maslowski, seconded by Elizabeth Harder, to adjourn.

VOTE: Chair Dave Nixon - Aye; Mary Maslowski - Aye; John Ketchum - Aye; Bob Doane - Aye; Joseph McParland III - Aye; Kathy Green - Aye; Elizabeth Harder - Aye; Carole Ridley - Aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment at 7:55PM.