Community Preservation Committee

April 2, 2020 at 7 PM

Uber Telephone Conference

Present: Chris Hannan, Chairman

 Dan Condon, Vice Chairman

Ed Harrington, Clerk

Cathy Torrey

Greg Agnew

Mark Kilban

George Loring

Pat O’Leary

Absent: Victor Pap

Staff: Bob Luongo, Planning Director

 Kate Marshall, Community Development Planner

 Eric Schneider, Principal Planner

Chris Hannan called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Mr. Hannan thanked the committee and any members of the public for taking the time to participate in the meeting via telephone conference during these unprecedented times – Covid 19 Pandemic.

Kate Marshall took attendance.

Andrew Hultin presented the request for trail and open space projects in the amount of $23,861.00. Park and open spaces in the request include Bradford Torrey, Great Pond, House Rock, Wessagussett Wetlands & Woodland Gardens, and the Landing Canoe Launch. The request also includes printing 500 trail guides.

Following the presentation of the application, Chris Hannan asked if any members of the committee had questions.

Pat O’Leary said it was a great application. Ms. O’Leary asked if the trail guides would be printed in house. Mr. Hultin said that the Recreation Department received a quote to print 500 guides. Mr. Hultin said they are about 30-40 pages each and would also be available on-line.

George Loring said it was a great application. He wanted to confirm that the Recreation Department would come to the Conservation Commission as needed, especially when working around stream crossings. Mr. Hultin said that the Recreation Department has been working closely with Mary Ellen Schloss, Conservation Administrator.

Chris Hannan agreed this was a great application. Mr. Hannan said Weymouth has vibrant resources and it’s important to enhance these areas and make them accessible to the public especially with the Town’s 400th anniversary coming up.

Chris Hannan asked if anyone from the public had any comments.

Linda D’Angelo, 40 Neck Street, President of the Back River Watershed Association, said this was a great application. Ms. D’Angelo said connecting the spaces, including appropriate signage, ensures that the public has access. Ms. D’Angelo asked for some details on the stream crossings. Mr. Hultin said that there are no footings and no excavation. The product is very easy to install and remove. The goal is to provide a safe stream crossing for people without causing deterioration and erosion to sensitive areas. Ms. D’Angelo asked if any of these stream crossings are along the Back River and Andrew said no.

After discussion, the following Motion was voted unanimously:

Motion by Cathy Torrey, second by George Loring to appropriate and fund $23,861.00 for trail and open space projects as described in the request put forward by the Weymouth Parks & Recreation Department from the unreserved fund balance account.

Steve Reilly presented the request to restore the playground and trails at Sarah Brassil Playground located off of Century Road in the amount of $234,586.00. Mr. Reilly mentioned that the Recreation Department has worked closely with the neighborhood to get input; especially with play structure components.

Following the presentation, Mr. Hannan asked if any members of the Committee had questions.

Pat O’Leary said that she took a drive by. She asked how many acres make up the park. Mr. Reilly said approximately 26 acres. Ms. O’Leary said that this is a great asset for the neighborhood and she asked about the parking plan. Mr. Reilly said that the parking would be a gravel surface defined by wooden guardrail.

Cathy Torrey said she was very satisfied with the application.

Chris Hannan asked how many vehicles were planned for the parking area. Mr. Hannan said it should be a sufficient amount without impacting the neighborhood. Mr. Reilly said about 2 or 3 spots in addition to HP parking. Mr. Reilly also reiterated that this park is a neighborhood passive park.

George Loring asked about the chain link fences that are included in the application. Mr. Reilly said that approximately 1150 feet of new fencing is needed to separate the space from abutters.

Mr. Hannan asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to comment. No public comment.

Bob Luongo asked if the Recreation Department could revisit the parking plan to obtain a few more non HP spaces. Mr. Reilly said that the Recreation Department will do that.

Motion by Cathy Torrey and second by George Loring to appropriate and fund $234,586.00 for restoration of the playground and trails at Sarah Brassil Playground from the unreserved fund balance account.

Ed Harrington made a substitute motion to include 6 parking spaces in addition to the HP parking.

Cathy Torrey asked Mr. Reilly if this was feasible. Ms. Torrey didn’t want the project to get delayed. Mr. Reilly said that the Recreation Department will have a parking plan for the Community Preservation Committee sometime next week showing 6 parking spaces in addition to the HP parking. The parking plan will also be part of the Recreation Department’s presentation to the Town Council.

Mr. Hannan asked Bob Luongo for guidance on the vote.

After discussion, the following motion was voted unanimously:

Motion by Ed Harrington and second by Cathy Torrey to appropriate and fund $234,586.00 for restoration of the playground and trails at Sarah Brassil Playground as put forward by the Weymouth Parks & Recreation Department from the unreserved fund balance account. Additionally, this motion includes a request from the committee to include 6 non HP parking spaces in this application.

Motion by Cathy Torrey and second by Ed Harrington to adjourn at 7:50 PM.