

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS
September 5, 2013
Town Hall, Council Chambers
MINUTES**

PRESENT:

Walter Flynn, Chairman
Ed Harrington
Dan Condon, Vice Chairman
George Loring
Pat O'Leary
Don Mathewson
Helen Maloney
Steve Reilly
Christopher Hannan, Clerk

ALSO PRESENT:

Jim Clarke, Director of Planning and Community
Development

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Christine Callbeck

Chairman Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

WHITMAN'S POND UPDATE

Chairman Flynn stated that the working group intended to make a presentation this evening but cancelled because they needed to get a clearer view of what is going on with the pond.

Chairman Flynn stated that the working group realized that some of the work needs to be done with CPC funding. The study has been completed and they are planning to come forward with the final draft of the study quite soon.

The history of Whitman's Pond issues is that there have been weed issues for many years. Herbicide treatment was planned. The Conservation Commission questioned such use and suggested a study of the pond be done to best determine the fix.

The Conservation Commission has determined that if the weed issue is to be fixed with herbicide, it will be the final step. Prior to that, there are many other steps that can be taken that are less harmful for the pond.

1. Hydroraking, coupled with weed harvesting, at a cost of \$250,000 (\$150,000 was allocated from the host community agreement). Cannot use CPC monies to purchase a hydro-rake and/or a weed harvester.
2. Drawdown the pond to below normal water levels during cold weather to kill the weeds. Few of these alternatives will permanently fix the weed issue in the pond.

3. Dredging of the pond; this project is two years out and would be quite expensive.

Mr. Harrington asked when was the last time anything was done to combat the weeds.

Mr. Clarke stated approximately 4-5 years ago with the hydroraking.

Mr. Harrington asked what effect do weeds have on the herring.

Mr. Loring stated it cuts into herring spawning area.

Chairman Flynn stated the weeds cut down on the oxygen in the water also.

Mr. Hannan stated CPC originally approved monies for treatment to the pond; where is the balance of those monies now.

Chairman Flynn stated sitting on hold.

Ms. O'Leary asked is there any grant money available to enhance the habitat for fish and wildlife?

Mr. Loring stated we look all the time for grant monies.

Mr. Reilly asked how long is raking good for.

Chairman Flynn indicated that it would need to be an ongoing project.

Mr. Condon stated clearly some action needs to be taken. The Town needs to accept the best plan for a 2-5 year solution. Mr. Condon stated he wonders what other towns are doing to address the same issue with their ponds.

Ms. Maloney stated she actually lives on the pond; whatever is the final decision it is going to have to be a drastic one.

PROJECT UPDATES

EMERY ESTATE

Mr. Clarke stated STB has been hired to do the work on the driveway, access road and study. The working group is hoping to come before CPC with its presentation sometime in October.

FOGG LIBRARY

Open House will be held on August 12, 2013, 6:00 –7:00 PM. The building is in construction; utilities are in, rough stuff on walls, partitions are up; project should be done in 90 days. A

check from the Massachusetts Historical Commission in the amount of \$50,000 was just received for this project.

HERRING RUN POOL

This project is considered finished.

ABIGAIL ADAMS HOUSE

\$40,000 still allocated but not yet used. Handicap ramp is the next issue to be tackled. Also, need to complete air conditioning and interior electrical issues.

WHITMAN'S POND

\$78,000 still unencumbered.

POND PLAIN/HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPOSAL

The roof is down, work is underway. Town Council approved Host Community Agreement funds for this project.

KIBBY PROPERTY

Mr. Clarke stated it has been difficult working with the State DCR for the past 8 months; so Mr. Clarke suggested the Town of Weymouth hire someone to get it done and complete the work. Hope to have a better report on Kibby property at the next meeting.

Mr. Clarke stated the intent of this parcel is to allow someone to walk through from Salt Water Creek Condominium through the property line at the Kibby property and then into the State Park; this path is not large enough for a vehicle. It's just to be a walking path or bike path.

LEGION FIELD/PINGREE FIELD

Mr. Clarke stated Activitas is the firm that was hired to do the work. They are in the process of data collection. Mr. Clarke stated that he hopes in late fall to hold a public meeting on Legion and Pingree. The idea is to get plans done by the calendar year end and to think about how to finance this project; still doing the analysis on grass or turf field.

BACK RIVER TRAIL

Mr. Clarke stated this project has been on hold since 2011. An application was submitted to the State applying for funds and just this week Mr. Clarke heard verbally that it had been awarded in the amount of \$175,000. Mr. Clarke will be preparing a new CPC proposal for this project and asking for matching State funds. The idea is to connect the end of the Great Esker land trail and tie it into Wharf Street. Next step is to get the MBTA to clean up their hazardous materials so the trail can be continued into East Weymouth train area and Pingree.

Ms. O'Leary asked when is the MBTA planning its clean up? Mr. Clarke stated they are hard to pin down to a date.

Chairman Flynn asked how soon the Town can do anything with the landfill area. Mr. Clarke stated the Town needs to be very careful with the landfill area; there are a number of environmental issues.

SMITH STONES AT NORTH CEMETERY

Mr. Clarke stated Paula Mine has reported the North Cemetery Commission is very disappointed with the performance of the restorer. They hope all the work will be done before the winter.

REORGANIZATION

Chairman Flynn asked all members to check with their respective boards, committees and commissions and make sure that they have been reappointed to the CPC and at the next meeting the Committee can choose its officers.

MINUTES

Mr. Hannan made a MOTION to ACCEPT the MINUTES of May 2, 2013. Mr. Harrington SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. Mr. Loring and Mr. Condon abstained.

Mr. Condon made a MOTION to ACCEPT the MINUTES of June 6, 2013. Mr. Loring SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. Mr. Hannan abstained.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Preservation Committee will be held on October 3, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Mr. Hannan to ADJOURN and SECONDED by Mr. Condon. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____


Walter H. Flynn, Jr., Chairman

Dated: _____

12/9/13