

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS
October 7, 2010
MINUTES**

PRESENT:

Walter Flynn, Chairman
Stephen Ford, Vice Chairman
Donald Mathewson
Donald Sheehan
Christopher Hannan

NOT PRESENT:

Dan Condon, Clerk
Donna O'Sullivan
Ed Harrington
Laura Harbottle

ALSO PRESENT:

James Clarke, Director of Planning & Development

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Christine Callbeck

Chairman Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and noted that Ms. O'Sullivan would not be present.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Chairman Flynn stated he met with Scott Bois and brought the worksheet he had made and handed out at the last CPC meeting; the balancing figures were accurate.

OLD BUSINESS

Basketball Facility at Municipal Lot at Wessagusset

Mr. Ford stated that he is still working out the details with the Mayor and working on a formal proposal. Chairman Flynn asked if any approval will be needed from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Clarke stated yes, he will check with the Conservation Commission. Chairman Flynn asked Mr. Clarke to speak with the Conservation Commission early on so that all issues can be worked on.

Mr. Hannan stated that all the parents he has spoken with from Wessagusset School are very positive about the proposed project. Mr. Ford asked Mr. Hannan to make a list of the people that he talks to.

PROJECT UPDATES

Fogg Library

Mr. Clarke reported that the main body of the exterior is done. The scaffolding is down. The inspectors have made sure that the building is water tight (one area is still in question, should be solved soon). The landscaping is being started today, should be done soon. Mr. Clarke stated that staff is thinking of holding an event at the building to honor the work that was done and to recognize the work that was done. The building looks great.

Chairman Flynn suggested a joint meeting/ribbon cutting of the exterior of the building with everyone adding in suggestions on what to do with the interior. Mr. Sheehan stated that the Boy Scouts did an excellent job on the brick walkway over the weekend.

Kibby Parcel

Mr. Clarke stated that the town has let the tenant stay at the home but he is pleased to announce that the tenant is moving to Cadman Towers. Mr. Clarke has a local contractor that is donating his time, willing to take down the building and help clean the site. Mr. Clarke spoke with Mike Doyle regarding the beneficial use of the land.

Reed Cemetery

This project continues to move ahead.

Herring Run

The work looks great; with one issue, need to find a way to get water to the site.

Whitman's Pond Issue

Mr. Clarke stated that Mayor Kay did get people together; it was a difference of opinion. The Mayor has asked Conservation Commission to talk with the Fisheries Group to discuss the issues at hand and get defining answers.

Chairman Flynn stated the Fisheries Technicians will give definitive statements to the issues. The Conservation Commission gave opinions only.

Crehan Window Replacement Project

Mr. Clarke reported this program is back on track.

Legion Field Wall

Mr. Clarke reported that he is pleased with the work progress. All piers are down, 1/3 of brick piers are constructed. The caps will be on in early November. They are reinstalling the rod iron. Mr. Hannan asked Mr. Clarke if he is happy with the work. Mr. Clarke stated that they are top masons and they know what they are doing.

Mr. Ford made a MOTION to APPROVE a supplemental \$10,000 amount for the Legion Field Wall construction from the Unreserved Fund Balance. Mr. Sheehan SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Abigail Adams Society Presentation

Ms. Lynn Spenser stated that her firm was retained by CPC and a grant to do a conditioning assessment of the Abigail Adams House. This 18 Century building is a portion of a building that was moved to this location. 50 years later the building is showing the passage of time.

AAS is looking at \$75,000 to fix up the house; windows, roof and sashing. To preserve the house it needs to be used. The Town should consider putting in a heating system for the winter. Most of the work is needed for the exterior and structure of the building. Most of the work that has been done in the past has been done by volunteers. The shed is closer to nature than architecture.

In the spring 700-800 8th Grade students visit the house within 2 days time. Ms. Spenser suggests changing the shed space and making it a space to teach the children a lesson when they visit the house.

A more thoughtful landscape plan that ties to historic buildings would be nicer.

Ms. Maud Ayson stated she has a vision for the birthplace of Abigail Adams and she hopes it involves the historical committee. The long-range plan is for the 75th anniversary of the Abigail Adams birthplace.

Ms. Spenser stated that it is up to the AAS to figure out what to do with the site. Mr. Hannan congratulated the Abigail Adams Society on obtaining a National Register Nomination for the Abigail Adams house. Ms. Spenser stated that the society knows very little about life inside the house. Ms. Ayson stated in the current swing of house museums these days, most committees have removed the majority of furniture in the rooms.

Mr. Clarke asked Ms. Spenser if she was recommending a new landscape plan. Ms. Spenser stated yes, including removal of the shed and building an enclosed teaching area with more signage and parking.

Chairman Flynn asked what the prospects of getting truly authentic furniture are. Ms. Spencer stated better luck with truly authentic reproductions. It would be a challenge to find (and purchase) authentic furniture and then to maintain in the building. That is why she suggests reproductions.

Abigail Adams Historical Society Proposal

Ms. Judith Alukonis stated that the Abigail Adams Historical Society officially was requesting funding for restoration and preservation of the Abigail Adams birthplace moving into the 21st - century to preserve Weymouth's National treasure in the amount of \$250,000.

Abigail grew up in Weymouth. Few places can claim to be the birthplace of both a First Lady and mother of a President. The importance and prominence of Abigail Smith Adams as an historical figure necessitate the preservation of this structure that was her childhood home. Her historical importance also necessitate the education of the population of her importance to Weymouth, the Commonwealth and the Nation which is best done through educating at the local level and bringing more people to Weymouth, thus increasing tourism which is one of the town's current goals.

- Birthplace, repairs as described in the final report
- Strategic Plan
- Educational/Interpretive/Collections Plan
- Site Improvements
- Further Historical Research
- Historic Building Analysis
- Shed Renovation
- Heating System

Ms. Alukonis stated that the AAHS are currently pursuing other funding sources as well. This project is a two year request.

Chairman Flynn stated that the CPC currently has a three phase project for Legion Field and a two phase Fogg Library project. CPC has reduced funding this year and most of the projects CPC is looking at are historical in nature. Each project that comes before this board will be scrutinized. Chairman Flynn stated that CPC will decide what it legally can spend funds on and report back to the AAHS.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Preservation Committee will be held on November 4, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00P.M., there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Mr. Ford to ADJOURN and SECONDED by Mr. Hannan. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____
Walter Flynn, Chairman

Dated: _____