

Town of Becket Community Preservation Act Committee Meeting (approved)

Wednesday, March 9th 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Becket Room, Town Hall

In attendance: members Neil Toomey, Cindy Delpapa, Jennifer Beatty, Robert Ronzio, Jan Elovirta, Rita Furlong and 6 guests

Neil opened the meeting by asking to review and accept minutes of June 9th meeting. Minutes were not immediately found and so the first proposal for funding was introduced.

1 Madeleine Elovirta of the Parks and Recreation Committee presented a request for \$75,000.00 for a new playground at the Becket Center Park. The present one is wooden and becoming unsafe. Questions by the committee included:

Are there other means of financial support available? An ATM article for direct payment other than CPA funding could be requested and possibly materials could be bought on sale for less money.

Who would do ground preparation? Hopefully the town highway crew could do much of that.

Were trees to be included in the plan to provide shade? No, but could certainly be looked into.

A discussion on whether the playground could be done in stages over a period of years was held. That certainly could be considered.

Could the Parks and Rec. regular budget provide some of the funding? Yes, possibly \$10,000.00 or so.

#2 Kathy DeFoe, Becket Athenaeum Director, presented a request for funding to refinish the floors of the athenaeum for a cost of \$6,734.00. The following questions were asked:

What would be the life expediency of the refinishing? Depending on the layers of paint applied it could be 2-10 years.

Any other sources of income to help? Only athenaeum funding of perhaps \$300-400.

Have you advertized CPA provided funding in the building for previous CPA funding? No, but would certainly be willing to do so in the form of the athenaeum newsletter, Washington Tracks newsletter, annual reports, etc.

#3 Steve Turner, YMCA Camps Building and Grounds Manager, presented a request for \$30,000.00 for the cost of an architectural assessment for the restoration and repairs of the Brewster House. Actual repair and restoration accomplishment would be some monies from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the camps capital budget, but an assessment must be done first. Question raised were:

What benefits does the camp offer to the town? Camperships are available.

Why ask the town to pay when the camps are a tax free entity? The town should care about this wonderful example of a home from the 1700's and its builder, Dr. Oliver Brewster, Becket's first physician and Revolutionary War doctor.

Why claim that this building is Becket's oldest building when it is not? Mr. Turner did not actually fill out this application and so does not know the answer to that question.

Could the application be cleaned up and corrected? Yes, he would ask Phil O'Connor, Camp CEO, to do that.

#4 Michelle Smith and Bill Cavanaugh, cemetery commissioners and Mr. Ed Gibson, town administrator presented a request for funding to do cemetery repairs on the town's three cemeteries. A company named A and A Memorials did an assessment of them and gave a quote of \$32,000.00 to repair all of the stones in the cemeteries. Questions raised:

If the town voted to fund these repairs, could a yearly stipend be added to the cemetery's yearly budget to provide funds for regular maintenance, so as to not ever again request such a large amount? Yes.

All of the groups were thanked for coming and following a public hearing and a vote by this committee, and a positive vote at the Annual Town Meeting, they would be notified. It was suggested that they be available at the public hearing.

Neil announced that we would meet again on March 30 at 6:30 followed by a PUBLIC HEARING at 6:40p.m. Then vote on whether to submit application to the ATM, and from what accounts the financing will come from.

The minutes of the June 9th, 2015 meeting were read and accepted. Neil 1, Cindy 2, Passed.

Cindy will adjust and clean up our town web site application form. She will also correct the list of present board members listed on the site.

The Memorandum of Understanding was discussed. It is a form to be given and signed in duplicate by the applicants following the ATM positive vote. It states the procedure for spending and billing for the work done by the applicant. We voted to begin using this form so that the applicants will be more responsible in using the town's CPA money. Neil 1, Jan 2, Passed.

Following the Public Hearing the ATM articles will be written and submitted to the town administrator for approval. They are due April first. Regular articles for the income designations of the CPA committee will also be submitted.

We voted to pay the Coalition dues when they are requested. Jennifer will follow through on this. Cost is \$350.00. Rita 1, Cindy 2, Passed.

Rita explained that a template will be created for the front of each application form that will make note of date submitted, presentation to CPC date, Public Hearing date, vote to submit for ATM date, ATM vote result, Memorandum of Understanding enclosed, followed by the sequence of spending and requests for

payment, and the date of the completion of the project. This will provide a more accountable sequence of the project.

Respectfully submitted, Rita Furlong, clerk