

CPC meeting
Rockport Police Station
6/9/15
7 pm

Present: R. George (Chairperson), P. Crotty (Vice-Chairperson), J. McMahon, E. Hand, M. Lash, S. DeMarco, B. Brosnan, M. Michaels, B. Reed

Not present: all present

The Committee introduced themselves to the various guests at the meeting.

M.Michaels passed out the budget, and the Committee discussed the contents. M. Michaels reported that the Committee has \$1,186,441.22. That includes everything the Committee has for income minus the bond payments which come to roughly \$114,000. The Congregational Church will be returning \$9,440.00 after June 30th. Approximately \$650,000 should be held in reserve to insure there is money for next year. The Committee received less money this year than ever before.

There were seven applications this year.

Granite Pier Staircase's application was considered first. Their request was reduced from \$100,000 to \$25,000 because architect's plans are required prior to construction. P. Crotty made a motion to grant the Granite Pier Committee \$25,000 for engineering plans to facilitate the construction of a staircase from the lower level to the upper level at Granite Pier, B. Reed seconded the motion, vote was an unanimous yes.

Next up was the painting of the Community House. R. George mentioned they had returned money to the Committee in the past, and this was appreciated. A motion was made by E. Hand to allocate \$30,000 for the Community House painting, B. Reed seconded it, vote was a unanimous yes.

Next up was Straitsmith Island Lighthouse Keepers House Restoration. Their request is \$50,000. Including this request, they have received \$529,000 from the Committee over the last twelve years for two different projects. It was agreed they do a good job of fund raising, and utilizing volunteers. S. DeMarco made a motion to approve the request for \$50,000 from the Thacher Island Committee for restoration work on Straitsmith Island for the Lighthouse Keepers House, M. Michaels seconded it, vote was a unanimous yes.

Action was next. It is agreed they do a very good job at what they do. The Committee discussed the amount to be given. They have money left over from last year. B. Reed made a motion to award \$100,000 to Action, M. Lash seconded, vote was three for and six opposed. S. DeMarco made a motion to amend the request to \$75,000, P. Crotty seconded it, vote was a unanimous yes.

Next was the steeple restoration of the Congregational Church. They are requesting \$132,046. They have decided against the fabricated aluminum steeple, and will go with the full restoration. They have been doing an excellent job of raising money in the church, and they have refunded money to the Committee as well. This is their third request for funds from the Committee. From a sectarian point of

view, the Committee thinks the Church is an important cultural addition to the town, and that it is of great benefit to the town to have this historical landmark. It appears in one of the most iconic views of Rockport. S. DeMarco made a motion to approve the application from the First Congregational Church of Rockport for the amount of \$132,046 for the restoration of the existing steeple, J. McMahon seconded it, vote was an unanimous yes.

Next up was the request for \$38,525 to fix the outdoor basketball court at the elementary school. R. George said the court is in really rough shape, and that it is a well used court. S. DeMarco made a motion to approve the \$38,525 for the restoration of the basketball court at the Rockport Public School, P. Crotty seconded it, vote was an unanimous yes.

Now on to Millbrook Meadow and Mill Pond restoration. They have revised their original request from \$1.2 million to \$580,000. Millbrook said they will be coming back next year for more funds. There was discussion about whether or not to bond the project. The Committee doesn't want to be bound next year, and expected to automatically give money to the second phase of the project. The Committee wanted to know if the work done this year could be considered a stand alone, and the panel said this phase could be a stand alone. Does all the money have to come from CPC? Are there other options to get this project done? There was extensive discussion and questions from the Committee about this complicated project. What about permits?? The numbers are still not firm.

P. Crotty made a motion to allocate \$600,000 to Millbrook Meadows, E. Hand seconded it. There was more discussion. The Committee wanted to know when Millbrook would be ready to go to bid? They said they would be ready at the beginning of 2016. Should the project even be up for discussion at this date? A vote was taken, and all opposed the motion to grant \$600,000.

Millbrook has \$122,000 that was raised privately, and is not encumbered. M. Michaels presented suggestions for bringing the costs of the project down to \$402,000, which would include \$100,000 of the Meadow's funds.

R. George recommended giving \$458,000 which with the Meadow's \$122,000 would come to their original request of \$580,000. After more discussion, B. Reed stated that he is just not comfortable with the whole project. He feels they need to come back, and bring permits. He thinks they are a year too early, and he needs to learn more. P. Crotty suggested we give some lesser amount of money. E. Hand wondered if the project doesn't work, will the Committee get the money back? The project is still in the design phase, and not even in the construction phase. J. McMahon suggested that CPC keep the money for now, and let Millbrook go through permitting for Phase One and reassess it for a Spring Meeting vote. By then, they will have firmer numbers. The application would be left open, and the money left undesignated. It will be discussed further, and worked on for the Committee to look at again, and present at Spring Town Meeting. Nothing was awarded tonight. S. DeMarco made a motion to table any further discussion on the application until a future point in time when better information is available, and in anticipation of potentially bringing the application to Spring Town Meeting, M. Michaels seconded it, vote was an unanimous yes.

Next on the agenda was voting regarding administrative expenses. S. DeMarco made a motion to approve \$26,950 of CPC money for fiscal year 2016 in administrative expenses, B. Reed seconded, vote was an unanimous yes.

S. DeMarco made a motion that the CPC develop a warrant article for Fall Town Meeting to return \$95,000 of watershed protection money previously allocated to the Open Space Reserve in undesignated funds, P. Crotty seconded, vote was an unanimous yes.

S. DeMarco made a motion that the CPC allocate 2016 money in the amount of \$53,900 each to the Open Space Reserve, the Historic Space Reserve, and the Affordable Housing Reserve to be approved at Town Meeting, M. Michaels seconded it, vote was an unanimous yes.

S. DeMarco made a motion to accept the May minutes, J. McMahon seconded (with a few minor revisions), vote was an unanimous yes.

R. George thinks the deadline for warrant articles is July 9th. She suggested that we move the CPC meeting to July 7th which is the first Tuesday of the month. S. DeMarco volunteered to do the support pieces for Straitsmith Island and the Congregational Church, P. Crotty will do the Granite Pier, J. McMahon will do the basketball court, and R. George will do the rest.

R. George will call all the groups to tell them of the Committee's decision.

S. DeMarco made a motion to adjourn, R. George seconded, vote was an unanimous yes.

