

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
June 23, 2021

Present: Sandy Slavin, Co-Chair, George Barrett, Jean Connaughton, Joan Kinniburgh, Barbara Smith, Sherbie Worthen

Absent: Brian Litchfield

Guests: Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator, Nick Rossi, MA Audubon, Land Protection Specialist

Call to Order – Sandy Slavin opened the meeting at 6:36.

Swift's Beach Proposal Update – Request for \$250,000 from CPC. Mr. Sullivan indicated the proposal will stay at the \$250,000 mark. After Town Meeting, the proposal will again go out for bid. Currently there are three proposals; from Game Time/MRC Recreation, Burke Childscapes, and Landscape Structures. The committee viewed a power point presentation of the proposals. Currently an adult section is on hold depending on funds raised. Once the final proposal is approved there will be an \$11,000 engineering survey. Fencing is under discussion. Some fencing exists, not on all sides, gate is needed. Size of erosion control will determine number of hay bales and silt fencing. There is no off-street parking. People with disabilities may be dropped off at the gate. Municipal maintenance support is not yet known. To date, no lights or cameras have been proposed, limiting attendance to dawn until dusk. Since the proposed playground is in a flood plain it will need to come before the Conservation Commission. Slavin stated discussion and voting on the playground proposal would take place at next CPC meeting.

Little Harbor Proposal – Request by MA Audubon and the Wareham Land Trust for \$400,000 from CPC to conserve open space. Nick Rossi reviewed the plan to convert the existing golf course. There is currently a purchase and sale agreement by the owners and MA Audubon. The CR would be jointly held by the Town of Wareham and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Key benefits to restoring the land to its natural habitat are the migration of the salt marsh as a buffer against sea level rise, improved water quality and shell fishing in Little Harbor, accessible trail network for people with mobility issues, educational programs for children and adults on ecological restoration through a fulltime staffed Audubon Center.

There is no beach involvement in this project. Some buildings and parking lot will be removed from vulnerable sections of the property. There are multiple points of access to the property. Rope railings and benches will be added.

Mr. Sullivan expressed his concern that the town would be losing a recreational asset and suggested the town might be interested in buying and managing the golf course. There was some discussion about high maintenance costs. Mr. Sullivan believes there is enough funding in "free cash", that possibly the town and Audubon could jointly manage the property.

Others stated sea level rise will reduce Little Harbor's use as a golf course.
Slavin agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Minutes, June 9, 2021 – Motion made to approve minutes. Joan Kinniburgh approved, Barbara Smith seconded. **Vote: 4-0-2**

Project Update – Request is being worked on with Anderson Track needing \$1,000 more than original grant.

In-Person Meetings - Jean Connaughton moved that CPC return to In person meetings.
Vote: 6-0-0.

Committee Reorganization –

- Worthen, Clerk – Smith moved to accept, George Barrett seconded. **Vote: 6-0-0.**
- Slavin, Treasurer- Slavin resigning as Co-Chair – Connaughton moved, Worthen seconded. **Vote: 6-0-0.**
- Kinniburgh, Chair - Smith moved, Connaughton seconded. **Vote: 6-0-0.**

Next Meeting – July 28th, 6:00pm, Town Hall, to discuss proposed projects.

Motion to Adjourn- made and accepted, 8:12pm

Respectfully submitted by Sherbie Worthen, Clerk

Sherbie Worthen, Clerk, July 28, 2021