

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (Zoom)

June 9, 2021

Present: Sandy Slavin, Co-Chair, Joan Kinniburgh, Barbara Smith, Sherbie Worthen

Absent: George Barrett, Jean Connaughton, Brian Litchfield

Guests: Claire Smith, Town Moderator, Christy Patalano, Katherine Norris, Swifts Beach Association, Nick Rossi, MA Audubon, Susan McCombe, Wareham Land Trust

Call to Order: Sandy Slavin opened the meeting at 6:11pm.

Minutes, April 14, 2021: Motion to approve minutes. Joan Kinniburgh made amendment re. Littleton Drive funding, "The Committee voted 4-3-0 to support a reduction to the grant amount of \$830,000. Three members voted NO to moving this grant request to Town Meeting." To approve amended minutes, **Vote: 4-0-0**

Open Projects:

- \$100,000 has been issued to the Latham Center.
- Tremont Nail has incoming bills for clean-up.
- Bill for redoing soccer field
- The following playgrounds have funds remaining: Oakdale-\$560
Lukey-\$541, and Girls' Softball-\$6. Motion made to close out Lukey, Oakdale and Girls' Softball. **Vote: 4-0-0.**
- Onset Bandshell funds granted in 2018. Unfinished.

Swift's Beach Playground: Christy Patalano described proposal for Fall Town Meeting to fund the restoration of Swift's Beach Playground. She described the restoration as a way to revitalize and strengthen the community and increase home values. Some of the attributes will include multi-generational activities, separate play areas for younger children, rubber matting and wood fiber surfacing for safety, pickleball court, East to West oriented basketball court. Beach pass required to park. Claire Smith believes there is also free parking along Swift's Beach Road. Fundraising activity will include selling pickets (similar to Lopes Field project). Slavin mentioned hay bales and silt fence required to control erosion. Kinniburgh requested an updated budget where all would be discussing the same itemized list, scheduled for the June 23rd CPC meeting.

MA Audubon proposal to purchase Little Harbor Country Club: Nick Rossi, MA Audubon Land Protection Specialist and Susan McCombe, Wareham Land Trust discussed a \$400,000 request to CPC for Fall Town Meeting. Current golf course owner has signed an agreement to sell to Audubon for \$2.3 million. This purchase does NOT include Little Harbor Beach. Rossi described protecting the land and restoring natural habitat, expanding Great Neck accessible trails (golf cart trails already accessible to those with mobility issues) restoring ponds to natural wetlands, providing a storm surge buffer, and becoming an asset for local schools and senior programs.

The goal is to expand the overall sanctuary, allowing access to \$1 million in National Coastal Wetlands funding.

Sue McCombe noted that ecotourism is becoming a major asset for Wareham; many more people are participating in outdoor environmental activities. She recommended Plymouth's webinar on their successful ecotourism endeavor.

CPC membership: Slavin asked members representing town boards and committees ie. Conservation, Historical Society, Planning, Housing Authority request authorization to continue their CPC representation.

June 23rd Meeting: Kinniburgh will have project files available.

Adjournment: Motion made and accepted to adjourn at 7:12pm

Respectfully submitted by Sherbie Worthen, Clerk

Sherbie Worthen Jun 30, 2021