

Community Preservation Committee

April 11, 2016

City Hall Auditorium

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Mike Dissette called a regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Don Little, Judith Grohe, Paul Healy, Dan Koen, Leah McGavern, Jane Healey and Steve Sawyer. Sarah White was absent. Also in attendance was Kate Newhall-Smith.

3. FY 2017 Application Presentations for Community Preservation Funds

The Track at Fuller Field – Improvements & Renovation Project

Friends of Newburyport Track and the City of Newburyport

\$150,000

City Councilors Bob Cronin, Tom O'Brien, Bruce Vogel, Greg Earls and Barry Connell spoke in favor of using CPC funds for improvements to the track at Fuller Field. Some of them addressed the audience as parents, runners and coaches. They said the existing track is an embarrassment to the city. The students are State champs and deserve a better track. Both the track team and adults in the community use the facility.

Lisë Reid described the project. She said the track is in a state of severe disrepair with cracks in the asphalt. The new track would be shorter and wider than a traditional one to allow space for parking. The cost of the project is expected to be \$2.6 million. In the first phase of the project the track and a natural grass infield would be installed. The bid process will take place in April and May and ground breaking is expected for June 8. The fencing, walkways, grandstands and plantings would be a part of the second phase of the project. The synthetic turf would cost \$1 million and would be installed in the third phase during the summer of 2018. The redesigned project is predicted to cost \$1.2 million more than the original plan due to the addition of synthetic turf and the expansion of the parking area.

Mike Gould, High Street, asked about the cost of installing a turf infield only to have it replaced in two years. Lisë Reid said the field must be made useable as soon as possible and funds do not exist to install a synthetic turf at this time. Ralph Orlando, 4 William Hall Drive, said this is a runners' community and commented on the number of City Councilors speaking in favor of the project.

Joppa Park Renovation Project, Phase II

Newburyport Parks Commission

\$25,000

Lisë Reid said the first phase of the Joppa Park renovation project involved the installation of a rose hedge and fence. In the second phase additional plantings, benches and a fountain were installed. Funding is currently being sought for the second part of phase two. The funding would be used for the manufacturing and installation of four interpretive panels and for engineering

Community Preservation Committee
April 11, 2016

services for the preparation of bid documents for improvements in the area of the boat ramp. The area would be made more pedestrian friendly by the continuation of the walkway across the parking area. Plantings would be installed along the seawall in front of the parking area. Funding is available from the Commonwealth for construction, but not design.

Open Space Reserve Fund
Newburyport Open Space Committee
\$150,000

Mike Frey requested that \$150,000 be added to the open space reserve fund in order that property might be purchased when it becomes available. The fund currently contains \$330,000 and was last used two years ago to purchase land near Maudslay State Park.

Little River Trail System □
Parker River Clean Water Association
\$200,000

Jerry Mullins described the proposal to improve a network of trails on City-owned property along the Little River. The existing trails are underutilized and fragmented. The trails would be linked into one system that is functional and accessible. They would be routed away from sensitive habitats and wetlands. Signage would be installed to assist with the navigation of the trails and to provide education on the importance of the Little River watershed and the Common Pasture. These wetlands absorb stormwater from Storey Avenue and Turkey Hill Road, providing protection from flooding and erosion. A stone dust path would be installed on either side of the bike path on the abandoned Route 95 roadbed to make it handicapped accessible.

4. Minutes

Dan Koen moved to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2016 meeting. Jane Healy seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Steve Sawyer and Leah McGavern abstaining.

5. Other Business

Mike Dissette said an issue regarding the ethical need for a member to recuse himself from voting or participating in the discussion of a project must be resolved. The City Clerk is of the opinion a member of a committee must not participate in the discussion of an application submitted by that committee. Mr. Dissette will report of the finding of the State Ethics Commission before deliberations begin.

6. Adjournment

Mike Dissette moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Jane Healey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.