

## **Town of Sharon**



### **Community Preservation Committee**

**Minutes of 3/23/2020**

**Meeting held virtually using ZOOM**

#### **Committee Attendees**

Corey Snow, Chair	Marc Bluestein	Keevin Geller
Eli Hauser	Rob Maidman	Susan Jo Rich - absent
Susan Saunders		

#### **Other Attendees**

Peter O'Cain, Linda Berger, Gary Bluestein, Jack Yee, Alan Westman, Peg Arguimbau, Kate Harrigan, Matt Conway, JJ McGrath

#### **Meeting Initiation**

Chair Snow called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. He stated that this was the first virtual CPC meeting ever. He commented that recently we made a large appropriation for Rattle Snake Hill. This puts restraints in what we are able to fund. The sum of the recreation items he commented are greater than our ability to fund. Ms. Berger said that the Rec Advisory and Field Advisory Boards will need to prioritize the projects.

#### **Historic Henry Jenks Fountain**

Former Police Chief JJ McGrath presented a project for \$25,000 to complete the purchase and restoration, site preparation and moving of the replacement of Henry Jenks fountain into its new location. This is almost an exact replica of what stood in the center of Town in P.O. Square from 1885 – 1917. The original was discarded at the train station and used for scrap. In its day, the fountain was used for watering horses. Citizens would also drink from it. JJ McGrath said the idea to find a replica or representative of the original is for historic purposes and to be used as a

memorial to honor resident's who served in various wars. It is made of cast iron. It had been discarded when motorized transportation came about. There is one original currently in the Wrentham Commons, one in Nantucket and one in Franklin Massachusetts. An identical one was found in Pawtucket. \$8,000 from a grant was used to pay for the fountain and the remainder came from the Selectmen. The lantern was purchased by Mr. McGrath in Cape Cod. He said they are still looking for the center column and are working with a foundry in Rhode Island to create. All the work including sand blasting and powder coating will cost \$25,000. The fountain is very important to the Town as it indicated the center of the Town. Mr. Maidman asked if there will be any maintenance costs once installed and Mr. McGrath said the restorer said it can last 100 years without maintenance. It will not be a working fountain but an historical symbol.

### **Mann's Pond Dam Trails**

Peter O'Cain, Town Engineer commented that the original project cost of \$367,500 is for both design and construction. He said the main spillway has large granite blocks. He commented that he has received the support of the Historical Commission. There is a stone restoration component, trail restoration and signage. Mr. Hauser asked Mr. O'Cain if he can provide a breakout for the different pieces to the project

### **Pickle Ball Courts**

Jack Yee representing 67 active pickle ball players said that they want permanent dedicated courts. The current program plays 3 days in two hour sessions. They want to be able to play more times. With 4 courts 16 players can play at once. Currently people are leaving Sharon for other towns to play. The project request is for \$164,616 to create 4 permanent courts at Deborah Sampson Park.

### **Rally Wall/Fencing for Tennis Courts**

Linda Berger, Recreation Director presented a project for \$50,265.60 to add a rally wall along with wind resistant fencing slats at the current tennis courts at Deborah Sampson Park.

### ***Ames Street Lights***

Linda Berger, Recreation Director said the cost for the project to install lights at the Ames Street Playground fields was \$550,000 but the new ask is now \$625,000 for lights at all four fields. Bob Lee President of the Men's Softball League said there are 160 players with no space left at the High School to play. Matt Conway who is the Associate AD at Boston College said from his experience, adding lights is a tremendous upgrade. It doubles playing time; it will light the playground as well. Lights can reduce crime. There will a two year period where the fields use will be a challenge due to the new HS and this will reduce the challenges. He recommends the use of MUSCO System due to the reduction of spill in the neighborhood. It will not negatively affect homes around the area but this will add lots of positives for the Town. Ms. Berger said an abutter meeting needs to be held and the project needs formal bidding.

## **Field A Conversion Renovation**

Alan Westman from SYBSA provided a project update to state the project will cost \$49,863 to be broken down between fence and field work. He said they need to convert the fields to bring more flexibility to the players. This proposal will create a new opportunity to use the fields for more games and age groups. The project is for a convertible field with the little league using 50/70 and teens can use as well. The field can be adjusted to allow the baseball community to be in one area at Deb Sampson. Mr. Maidman commented that SYBSA has identified this as a key project to embrace and support and they will be providing \$25,000 for this project from their funding.

## **Discussion**

The CPC members reviewed all the projects and a discussion ensued.

Ms. Berger said the priorities for the recreation projects would be lights at Ames, tennis court then Pickle Ball courts.

Chair Snow said that all projects cannot be funded this time. State funding will be announced in the fall but we cannot count on it.

Mr. Maidman said that the whole state budget will need to be re-evaluated and it is unlikely a surplus will be available. This makes priority more important if we cannot replenish the funds for future projects making it more challenging. We need to give special consideration to the decisions.

Ms. Saunders said she doesn't want to do borrowing for additional projects.

Chair Snow said we borrowed for Rattlesnake Hill but will not for these projects. He said there should be a good revenue for FY 22 and will drop subsequently in FY 23 and 10 plus years afterwards. For planning purposes later, we will have less money. Given the constraints, before the next meeting he said we need specific amounts on future expenditures, the state will roughly match and make reasonable estimates. He said we need to look 5 years out and this will help to decide.

Mr. Hauser said we need to keep tight for this year.

Mr. Westman commented that for the Ames Field conversion, the project can be phased.

Ms. Berger said that for the lights she can work with the vendors to see how the project can be split/phased.

Mr. O'Cain will work on breaking out costs.

**Next Meeting Dates**

3/30, 4/6

**Minutes**

Deferred

**Adjournment**

Ms. Saunders moved to close the meeting and Mr. Bluestein seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of adjourning at 9:47 PM