

Town of Great Barrington
Community Preservation Committee (CPC)
Minutes of January 11, 2022

This meeting was held via audio/video teleconference as noted on the agenda for this meeting.

Call to Order 5:00 PM by Chair Blauvelt.

All nine members were present: Tom Blauvelt, Leigh Davis, Martha Fick, Jeremy Higa, Don Howe, Jim Mercer, Patricia Sharpe, Karen W. Smith, and Kate Van Olst.

Also present: Christopher Rembold

Minutes: Minutes of the January 6 meeting were not ready for review.

FY23 CPA Step 1 Applications for the Open Space / Recreation category

Applications were distributed to the Committee in advance and are posted on the Town's website.

- Town, for Memorial Field:

Rembold, and DPW Superintendent Sean Van Deusen were present for this application.

Fick asked if the design was done yet, and could construction happen this summer. Rembold said yes design is done. He said construction will be done off-season when the field is not in use.

Davis asked if non-town groups used the field and if they are charged a fee. Smith said yes and the Parks Commission is having conversations about the fee issue with regards to all its facilities.

- Town, for Lake Mansfield:

Smith asked how this study will relate to the old studies. Rembold said this will determine what types of aquatic weeds are in the lake now, and how it has changed over the years, and whether we need to update any of our lake management approaches.

- Town, for McAllister Wildlife Refuge:

Conservation Agent Shep Evans was present along with Jess Toro of Native Habitat Restorations.

Blauvelt noted this type of work has been happening for a few years. Will this continue and when does this become maintenance. Jess Toro said we have not yet worked our way through all the areas of the property, so there is still intensive work to do. We continue to phase in new areas each year.

Blauvelt asked about the Mass DCR funds. Toro said we heard yesterday that we got the funding of \$17,000. She DCR is very happy with this project and our stewardship; they recognize the value of consistently good results.

Howe asked who does maintenance, when we get to that phase. Toro said the Conservation Commission does manage the property and hires Greenagers to do the work. This maintenance cost is paid out of the town's operating budget. Evans said we spend \$5,000 per year on that.

Toro said the restoration work is more intensive and that is why we request the CPA grants. She said we have a few more years of big projects, and then the property will just be in a monitoring and stewardship phase.

Reports from Committee Members: None

Citizen's Speak: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 25.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Minutes prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Rembold', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Rembold