

Town of Great Barrington Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

Minutes of November 20, 2017

Fire Station, 37 State Road

Members present: Ed Abrahams, Thomas Blauvelt, Jeremy Higa, Bill Nappo, Patricia Sharpe, and Karen W. Smith. **Absent:** Jessica Dezieck and Martha Fick

Also present: Town Planner/CPA Administrator Chris Rembold

Call to Order 5:30 PM by Chair Blauvelt

Administrative Items

Smith moved to approve the minutes of November 14. Abrahams seconded. All were in favor

Review Step 2 applications

The last four of the nine Step 2 applications were reviewed:

GBLC Riverfront Trail: Janice Kabel and Dale Abrams were present. Kabel said this is for construction of the first phase of the trail, which is in two sections. The first section is from Bridge St to Olympian Meadows and the second section is south of the Fairgrounds, down to Brookside Road. It will be a crushed stone surface, 5 to 6 feet wide. This grant request is for \$170,000 or 81% of the total budget.

Blauvelt asked if GBLC had confidence they would get the other grant funds. Abrams said they have prior experience with those funds, and if they have CPA that will show a significant match.

Smith asked about the crushed stone surface through the baseball fields. Abrams said they think the path will not be in the play area. Smith and Abrams said they would continue the discussion.

Smith asked if there was a cost estimate for the second phase. Abrams said no, they don't have it yet.

Sharpe asked, if they aren't able to do the second phase and link the sections, shouldn't they just do one section or the other this time? Abrams said they want to do both sections in the first phase. They both have value. The south section benefits the senior housing, the Historical Society farmstead and the future commercial area. The north section serves as an extension of the River Walk. Abrams pointed out these areas on maps, which he will send.

Sharpe asked about the right to have the trail if landowners change. Abrams said GBLC and the Town already have or will have permanent easements for the trail. It's perpetual.

Steps at Town Hall: Sean Van Deusen from the Town was present along with Steve Mack, engineer. Sean said the steps are original to the building, about 1875. He said Town Meeting last year approved some funding for the steps, but that was before a detailed estimate was done. He said that estimate is complete and the cost is much more. He said they discovered the foundation of the steps needs to be rebuilt, the steps replaced, and then everything patched back up. He said this request is for \$120,000 which will supplement what Town Meeting approved last year. He said the side steps (the north steps) are not as bad. They have not heaved and can be reused also.

Old Route 7 Trail: Chris Rembold described the route of the trail and how this project developed. He said CHP has been searching for a safe route to CHP for some time. He said this application requests \$25,000 from the CPA for design and engineering for a path on what was once part of Route 7. He said CHP, Mass DOT and nonprofits determined this is a good route, and the Town actually owns the land. There may be small easements needed across GBLC and Brewery-owned land, but they are amenable to

this. Rembold said this path meets many goals and priorities of the CPA Plan and the Master Plan. He said it connect important community resources, and is also the missing link in a larger 3-mile trail system that includes CHP, Berkshire South, and permanently conserved land.

Smith asked what constructions costs might be. Rembold said he would get a rough number, and that funding could come from sources such as DOT Complete Streets, the Recreational Trails Program, private sector fundraising, CPA, or some combination.

There was also a question about lighting. Rembold said that will be figured out in design in discussion with neighbors. There was a question about easements across the route of the path. Rembold said he would look into that.

Lake Mansfield Accessible Trail: Chris Rembold and Christine Ward presented the project. Rembold pointed out the map and where the loop trail needs to be completed. He said the trail is very well used and the accessible portion meets the needs many users. Ward said the forest trails are link that connects neighborhoods and the larger trail system that includes the River Walk downtown.

Rembold said this is the third phase of a ten-year, \$83,000 trail project, and this CPA grant request represents just 18 percent of the total project cost. He said this particular phase costs about \$25,000 and the GBLC already has 40% in the bank ready to match the CPA funds.

Reports of Committee members

None

Citizen Speak

None

Next Meeting

November 28

Adjourn

6:30 PM

Minutes prepared by:

