

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

January 4, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present: Christopher Feeley, David McNeill, Lisa Oxford, Michael Giardino, Rick Power, Wayne Simarrian, Phyllis Messere-Malcom, Jeffrey Livingstone, not present Monique Doyle

Town staff also in attendance: Town Administrator Jamie Hellen, Assistant to the Town Administrator Alecia Alleyne, Head of the Recreation Department Ryan Jette

Chairman Christopher Feeley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

1. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from the December 7, 2021, meeting. The motion was seconded. Approval was unanimous.

2. Continuing CPC Business:

Mr. Hellen: All Community Preservation Committees are required to hold one public hearing each year. Because the Franklin new to the process, two public hearings will be held, the second on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

Mr. Hellen spoke with Stuart Saginor from the Massachusetts CPA and from that conversation about public records, indicated that Ms. Alleyne and he would be drafting a CPC Master Plan for Franklin. The plan would include priority projects and issues raised at public hearings.

A FY 2023 CPC budget would be drawn up to parallel the Town's operating and capital budget. It would include an estimate of state aid. Ten percent would be set aside for the each of the required CPA areas: open space, housing, and historical preservation. The budget reserve from FY2022, determined in June 2022, will be transferred to FY 2023.

Mr. Feeley: The meeting was opened for public comments.

Michael Ryan: Mr. Ryan thanked the Committee and the Recreation Department for their work. He advocated for three additional pickle courts with lighting at King Street. He cited the growing popularity and low cost of pickle ball and noted that 18 communities have used CPA funds for courts.

Bill Kelso: Mr. Kelso spoke in support of Mr. Ryan and again noted that pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in America.

Alan Earls: Mr. Earls brought up the Federal lands around Mine Brook. He thought that public access might be possible with CPA monies. Additional land parcels could be purchased and pathways made for public use.

Roberta Trahan: Ms. Trahan stated that the SNET trail on the Franklin side needs work and is not safe for the elderly.

Wayne Simarrian: As a member of the Recreation Board, he spoke in support of Mr. Ryan's comments about pickle ball.

Mr. Hellen: The town installed two pickle ball courts for approximately \$200,000 and he also supports more courts. Lighting for the present courts is being considered but is expensive. Three additional courts could cost about \$300,000.

Ryan Jette: The present pickle ball courts were planned in 2017-2018: costs were \$102,000 for concrete, \$3,640 for nets, and \$33,000 for fencing.

Mr. Hellen: The CPC Master Plan will look ahead for five years. Mr. Jette has focused on one major plan a year. The staff capacity is an issue for every project so the each upcoming project must be planned for judiciously. The projects offer a bit of everything to everyone, and since pickle ball is so popular, courts might be built in other areas of town.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:20 with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Doyle

Clerk, Franklin, MA, CPC