

CPC
Approved
Kerri Rufo



Community Preservation Committee
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Travis Brown, *Chair*

Doug Meagher
James O'Donnell
Matthew Battcock

Matthew Battcock
Diane DePaso
John Speidel

Tom Conway
Janet Morris
Joe Fiumara

CPC
Minutes
August 15, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.
Held via remote zoom

RECEIVED
2022 OCT 31 1 P 1:10
TOWN CLERK
BILLERICA

Members Present	Present
Travis Brown	X
Doug Meagher	X
Tom Conway	X
James O'Donnell	X
Diane DePaso	X
Janet Morris	Excused
Matthew Battcock	X
John Speidel	X
Joe Fiumara	X
Kelli Rufo-CPC Coordinator	X

No Public Comments

AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATED

Travis Brown-There were 3 projects that were presented to on August 11, 2022, for the Fall Town Meeting. Rather than a project it could be put under the administrative fund balance. We opted to amend all the categories and we would bump them all up \$10,000. Travis noticed a scrivener's error, that Open Space Special Fund Balance should be listed as housing.

Comments from Board

Jim O'Donnell asked if the money from the administration is going to pay for the Open Space Study. Travis confirmed.

Doug Meagher confirmed that we are requesting to revise each of the categories and the administrative fund based on the Town Accountants change in estimate of revenues for the fiscal year. It went from a \$1,000,000.00 to \$1,100,000.00. If we approve what we are recommending for Town Meeting, is to increase the administrative budget, which is 5% from \$45,000 to \$55,000 to reflect that 5% of \$110,000.00. For the other categories by statute, we have to do 10% because we are required to do the 10%. Since we are going forward in the fall, this is our chance to recommend to Town Meeting that we adjust it in the fall.

There was discussion on the scrivener's error, and they asked Kerri to make the adjustment with Paul Watson.

The board all agreed with the increase

MOTION TO APPROVE

Doug Meagher- I make motion to increase the administrative budget to 5%. Housing, Historic and Open Space/Rec shall increase to 10%. Based on The Town Accountants estimate of \$1,100,000.00 for the fiscal year

2nd by Jim O'Donnell

Doug Meagher-Aye

Joe Fiumara

Diane DePaso

Tom Conway

Jim O'Donnell

John Speidel

Matt Battcock

Travis Brown

8-0-0 Approved

VINING 50/70 BASEBALL FIELD

Travis Brown gave an overview of the eligibility form for the request of the new baseball field at the Vining property to the board. It is to create a 50/70 baseball field at the Vining property for intermediate baseball use. A 50/70 baseball field has dimensions that are larger than those of little League, but smaller than those of high school baseball.

Comments from the Board:

Diane DePaso asked about the wetland area over at the Vining.

Each board member expressed that they were in favor of this project and that it is a good time to do it because of the time sensitivity.

MOTION TO APPROVE

Joe Fiumara- I make motion to include the Vining Baseball field into the Fall warrant article 2nd by Doug Meagher
Doug Meagher-Aye
Joe Fiumara-Aye
Diane DePaso-Aye
Tom Conway-Aye
Jim O'Donnell-Aye
John Speidel-Aye
Matt Battcock-Aye
Travis Brown-Aye
8-0-0 Approved

MBTA ROW

Travis Brown gave an overview of the eligibility form. To fund the purchase of a parcel of land known as the MBTA ROW largely adjacent to town owned so-called "Cabot Land". The right-of Way runs from River Street to Cabot Corporation land, crossing Richardson St.

Comments from the Board:

Joe Fiumara-I am not in favor of this. There are other issues with the MBTA in town that they could combine it with. There are probably a lot of conservation issues along that ROW. It could wait till spring to be done. We haven't got the Rail trail yet. If they are going to talk to the MBTA they should be including more things that we have here in Town.

Diane DePaso-I think I am in favor of this although I am not familiar with the ROW but from what I understand that they want to look at this for the Rail Trail. There are defiantly conservation issues associated with it as Joe pointed out. If this is a long-drawn-out process to acquire this land for the Rail Trail, I think it might make sense to get process up and running.

Tom Conway-I feel it will be a long process, feels it could wait but because he feels like it will take a long time, I will vote in favor to get it started

Doug Meagher- I am in favor of this project. I think that it is not ready yet. We indicated when we meet with the Assistant Town Manager that we thought it would be eligible and I would think that would give him a sense that they could begin negotiating with the MBTA. I thought there was some good comments at our last meeting, suggestions on some other things while they are negotiating with the MBTA to be able to come back having done more homework and present to us when they're able to submit an application with more time, maybe around the springtime.

Jim O'Donnell- I heard Diane said something about the Rail Trail. Maybe you could clarify. The other night when we had the meeting, it was more for placing parking and trails for people to walk I don't think the Yankee Doodle bike path, if that is what she was talking about isn't going to go through there, I could be wrong. Similar to what everyone else is saying dealing with the MBTA it

will probably be drawn out. I don't have a problem going forward with this. I wouldn't expect this to be done fairly soon.

John Speidel-In favor for it but not for the Fall Town Meeting. We should ask for the train station as well.

Matt Battcock-I agree with the board members. We have to start somewhere and that we have to go forward with it to get to start it. In the end it will be good for the rail trail.

Travis Brown-I think everyone made great points. His concerns are the unanswered questions, given more time between now and spring Town Meeting they could acquire more of a package deal. His concerns are all the things that will come up as the appraisal, abutters, power lines. Feels it could be tough right now to get the MBTA's attention.

MOTION TO APPROVE

Tom Conway- I make motion to include the MBTA ROW into the Fall warrant article 2nd by Jim O'Donnell

Doug Meagher-No

Joe Fiumara-No

Diane DePaso-Aye

Tom Conway-Aye

Jim O'Donnell-Aye

John Speidel-Aye

Matt Battcock-Aye

Travis Brown-No

5-3-0 Approved

The board discussed the Open Space Plan. Feels that it is best to see if vote to amend the fiscal year passes at Fall Town Meeting. They would like to have the funds in place in case something is needed. The agreed all agreed that they can come back at anytime in the future for the Open Space Plan. Feels that what wasn't used in the personal fund could be allocated to the Open space plan. Joe asked what the plan cost back in 2018 and feels it would be good to know to have as a base number.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Fiumara-I make a motion to adjourn

Seconded by Tom Conway

Doug Meagher-Aye

Joe Fiumara-Aye

Diane DePaso-Aye

Tom Conway-Aye

Jim O'Donnell-Aye

John Speidel-Aye

Matt Battcock-Aye

Travis Brown-Aye
8-0-0 Approved