



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
Zoom Meeting
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Chair Jonathan Torcia, Planning Board, Chair

Lynn Booth, Housing Authority
Ralph Cooley, Historical Commission
Frances Corgnati, Conservation Commission
Brian Davis, At-Large

Thomas O'Brien – Board of Public Works
Thomas Kaye, Recreation Commission
Anthony Zampiceni, At-Large
VACANT – At-Large

MINUTES

Thursday, April 8, 2021 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Present: Chair Jonathan Torcia, Lynn Booth, Ralph Cooley, Frances Corgnati, Brian Davis, Anthony Zampiceni, Thomas Kaye

Absent: Thomas O'Brien

Also Present: Mary McNally, Town Manager, David Mackin, Matthew Flannagan, Cathy Hood, Melanie , Bill Couzelis

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Torcia opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and identified the CPC members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Motion: Anthony Zampiceni made a motion to approve, seconded by Frances Corgnati, the March 4, 2021 meeting minutes. The results were unanimous in favor.

Motion: Anthony Zampiceni made a motion to approve, seconded by Ralph Cooley, the December 3, 2020 meeting minutes. The results were:

- 6 yes: Anthony Zampiceni; Brian Davis, John Torcia, Lynn Booth, Ralph Cooley, Thomas Kaye
- 1 abstention: Frances Corgnati (not a member at the time of the meeting)

Motion: Tom Kaye made a motion to approve the October 1, 2020 meeting minutes and Brian Davis seconded to vote. The results were:

- 6 yes: Anthony Zampiceni; Brian Davis, John Torcia, Lynn Booth, Ralph Cooley, Thomas Kaye
- 1 abstention: Frances Corgnati (not a member at the time of the meeting)

Motion: Brian Davis made a motion to approve the September 2, 2020 meeting minutes and Anthony Zampiceni seconded to vote. The results were:

- 5 yes: Anthony Zampiceni; Brian Davis, John Torcia, Lynn Booth, Ralph Cooley
- 2 abstention: Frances Corgnati; Thomas Kaye (not members at the time of the meeting)

BONDS UPDATE: Chair Torcia met with the Town Accountant and shared an update on the Debt Service:

- Pine Knoll Pool Renovation Bond (6/29/16 Issue) will go until 2028 with a total principal of \$290,000
- Land Acquisition (10/13/11 Issue) will go to 2030 with a total principal of \$360,000

PRIOR APPLICATIONS UPDATE:

- Unanimously Approved by Town Council on March 9th, 2021
 - Bark Park Sidewalk (\$4,600)
 - Norcross House Porch (\$11,625)
- Outstanding Applications to be presented to the Town Council
 - Norcross Carriage House (\$13,400)
 - Pine Knoll Playground (\$180,000)
 - Track Resurfacing (\$134,722.49)

Lynne Booth inquired if there were any approved projects that have not yet been paid out. Chair Torcia stated that he would inquire and get back to the committee.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COALITION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Membership renewal is \$1,750 and East Longmeadow has historically been a member and has benefited from this membership.

Motion: Tom Kaye made a motion to approve the payment to CPC Coalition in the amount of \$1,750 for the year, seconded by Anthony Zampiceni. The results were unanimous in favor.

APRIL 1ST APPLICATION SUBMITTALS REVIEW

- Pickleball Nets (\$1,400)
 - David Mackin provided an overview of pickleball, which is currently the fastest growing sport in the US. The community has been playing pickleball on the Tennis Courts, but there's increasing interest to expand the options for pickleball courts at the High School.
 - The request for \$1,400 is for the purchase of 4 nets at \$350 each and Matthew Flanagan provided an overview of the execution of the project.
 - Cathy Hood also summarized her experience and support for the sport within the community.
 - A letter identifying the payee will be provided by David Mackin.

Motion: Tom Kaye made a motion to approve the Pickleball Nets project for \$1,400 from the Open Space and Recreation Fund, seconded by Frances Corgnati. The results were unanimous in favor.

- Bark Park Application – Phase II for walkway (\$7,500)
 - Melanie Acobe and Bill Couzelis described the phase II project which will close out the loop of the sidewalk. This would build upon what's previously been approved (\$4,600). The applicants will fund \$1,000 in addition to the funding requested from CPC, for a total of \$8,500.
 - Frances Corgnati stated that dog owners loved the park, but there were some concerns that with the additional sidewalk, the dog play area would be smaller. Bill addressed these concerns further defining the project.

- Anthony Zampiceni inquired if there was a plan to relocate the dog park as he had seen reference to that. Bill stated that there are no plans to relocate. Anthony would like to see the access road started with solar lighting to let people know that it's secure.
- Tom Kaye stated that there's a long-term project plan with a website (Master Plan Visioning Plan) that is seeing feedback around long-term planning and suggests that this application be paused until there's a clearer view on the long-term vision.
- Mary McNally stated that there is a website and the Master Plan process is in the infancy, with a due date of June 30th of 2021. There's hesitancy to do things piecemeal for fear that you have to undo what you've done, but it's a big project and it could be years before anything happens which could be years without an improvement to the dog park.
- Ralph stated that he's supportive of spending \$7,500 now when the Master Plan improvements are years away.
- Frances inquired if the pavement will be under the benches, Bill stated that the pavement will not be under the benches and Melanie shared that the dogs can go between the pavement and other areas without issue.

Motion: Tom Kaye made a motion to move decision on Phase II of the Bark Park project until after June 30th when the Master Plan will have been drafted, seconded by Anthony Zampiceni. The results were:

- 5 yes: Anthony Zampiceni, Brian Davis, Lynn Booth, Frances Corgnati, Thomas Kaye
- 2 no: Jonathan Torcia, Ralph Cooley

CPC PLAN

Chair Torcia stated that the Committee needs to put together a CPC Plan. He shared the 1-pager that had been prepared and approved in from 2017. The goal of the CPC Plan is to seek feedback from the community and prioritize areas in the community to invest. Given the limited number of applications, the hope is that the Committee can plan in a long-term fashion, including seeking additional applications as there have been between two and four per cycle.

Frances stated that the success of the public hearing will depend on how this process is publicized and the public understands the purpose of the Committee, knowing they can apply for funds. Frances stated that it would be great to inform the community of the funding options, including affordable housing.

Chair Torica stated that they could advertise in the Reminder. Anthony Zampiceni thought perhaps August at the Senior Center.

Tom Kaye suggested using the next two meetings as a way to reach out to the community, using the information learned from the Community Preservation Commission to inform. For example, the Recreation Department sends out the "Recreational Programming Guide" and that could potentially be used as a template for CPC to share with the community.

Mary stated that it might be more beneficial to have the plan first and allow the community to comment on the plan, if even if draft form. Mary's happy to help and Alison [Sawyer] can also help draft the plan.

Chair Torcia will draft an article that can go to the public along with the CPC Plan to better guide where the funds should go before a public hearing.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Approve April 8th meeting minutes
2. Next meeting will be May 6th

There was a motion by Tom Kaye to adjourn and Frances Corgnati seconded. Unanimous vote to adjourn.