

Longmeadow Community Preservation Committee

Date: January 5, 2017 Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Longmeadow Council on Aging Meeting Room

Approved on January 18, 2017

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Longmeadow Community Preservation Committee
Minutes of January 5, 2017

Present: John Bresnahan, Linda Glenn, Beth Green (remotely), Donald Holland, Sheri Knight, Ron Manseau, Arlene Miller, Jim Jones and Steven Weiss

Absent: none

Guest: Susan and Stephen Kennedy, First Church Columns

Michael DelGallo, Paul Philbin and Jeffrey Evans, Longmeadow Baseball Association (LBA)

Craig Carr, Patrick Carnahan and Marsha Harbison, Bliss Park Improvements

Betsy and Al McKee, Storrs House and Longmeadow Cemetery

Katherine Ingram, Historic Records Preservation

1. Approval of minutes from December 15, 2016 CPC Meeting

- Minutes of the December 15, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Discussion with 2017 applicants: Chairman Weiss opened the meeting with a brief explanation of the CPC application review and approval process.

- 2017-#3 Historic Records Preservation
 - Ms Ingram explained that this request is a continuation of her last request, which paid for review of all documents in the Town Hall basement and placed them in some sort of order.
 - This project will help theTown comply with a new public records law that equires communities to make all historical records accessable.
 - This project would digitize the records. This is the beginning of the process to digitize all records.
- 2017-#2 Storrs House Museum, 2nd Floor Climate Control Project
 - Dr. McKee explained how this money would allow the Storrs House Museum second floor to be heated and air conditioned. The project would entail placing the heating and coolig systems in the third floor so they can indepentently cool and heat the second floor.
 - Dr. McKee explained that if this project were to go over budget, the Historical Society would be prepared to add additional dollars.

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- 2017-#7 Bliss Park Improvements
 - Mrs Harbison, with assistance from Mrs. Carr and Mr. Carnahan, explained that this project would improve the SE section of the park. Dead trees would be removed and their chips would help to better define the parking area. A kiosk would be placed at the entrance and would help make trail maps available.
 - There was a general discussion about the eligibility of cutting down trees. It was noted that, if the tree removal were part of a need to create space for picnic tables for instance, that might meet CPC guidelines. The CPC members were concerned about respecting the line between improving recreation space and maintenance.
 - Mrs. Harbison noted that the DPW Assistant Director/Tree warden (Geoff McAlmond) has endorsed his project.

- 2017-#8 First Church Columns Restoration:
 - Susan and Stephen Kennedy explained how this project fits well with the CPA historic restoration guidelines of repair, restore and preserve structures. They explained that there is a section of the lower portion of the large exterior columns in front of the church that needs special workmanship for repair and restoration.
 - Chairman Weiss explained the issue of a law suit against the town of Acton town's resulting from their CPC's approval of a church restoration project. Certain individuals were suggesting that funding a church project with public money violates the separation of church and state statute.
 - An interesting discussion followed about the history of First Church, with the emphasis on how significant the First Church was and is to the community, both as an historic structure and a meeting house.

- 2017-#9 Turner Park Fields Rehabilitation/Restoration:
 - This project is to provide the Turner Park baseball fields with 2 dug-outs, 2 sets of bleachers, one score board and one flag poll. The LBA has already gifted one score board to these fields.
 - The proponents explained that they held off submitting this last year to accommodate the tennis court project.
 - DPW has offered to assist with the construction of the dug-out and the placement of the bleachers.
 - The LBA has already invested in these fields by providing the sprinkler system.
 - If the project funding had to be reduced, the proponents agreed that their order of priority is the dug-outs, score board and bleachers.
 - It was asked when the funds would become available?

- 2017-#10 Gravestone Restoration and Preservation:
 - Dr. and Mrs McKee shared interesting pieces of history with the committee about the cemetery. In 1716 the town was required to provide a burial ground because everyone was to be buired there; kids, slaves and everyone else.
 - This project would focus on the restoration of the foot stones.

3. Report from the Chairman

- Chairman Weiss shared that he has invited the Chairman of the Select Board to our public hearing next week. He also reported that he met with Town Manager Crane and Dr. Metz, Chair of Capital Planning. Mr. Weiss summarized the important elements from that meeting.

4. Review of Outstanding Projects

- Storrs Library Steps and sidewalk: A motion was made to accept the final report. It passed unanimously.
- Storrs Handicap ramp project: A motion was made to accept the final report. It passed unanimously.
- Longmeadow Cemetery Burial Markers: \$1483 will be returned to CPC funds from this project: A motion was made to accept the final report. It passed unanimously.
- Stropple/Dipippo Fields: A motion was made to accept the final report. It passed unanimously.
- Community House Heating Project: A motion was made to accept the final report. It passed unanimously.

5. New Business:

Chairman Weiss mentioned that he has been asked to present our FY 2018 CPC recommendations to the Select Board on February 6th. He will be out of town and will attempt to have the agenda item moved to another date.

Adjourned at 8:50 PM

Minutes submitted by Arlene C. Miller