

Town of Westborough Recreation Department

Recreation Commission

Date: Monday, December 20th 2021

Location: Zoom (Virtual)

Convened: 4:34 p.m.

Adjourned: 5:05 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland, Program Coordinator Josh Aponte, Finance Committee Liaison Andrew Bradley, Liaison to the Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee Colleen Dowd, Brian Kane, Bethany Travis, Bill Clausen, Katie Welch, Ian Johnson, Adam Steinberg, Aidan Larkin, Colin West, and Administrative Assistant Grethel Guzman-Ruck.

Committee Member Absent: Commission Chair Earl Storey and Golf Course Manager Matt Griffith.

Appoint Josh Aponte to the Hocomonco Pond Reuse Committee, to replace Earl Storey

Colleen made the motion to appoint Josh Aponte to the Hocomonco Pond Reuse Committee to replace Earl Storey and Beth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 4-0.

CPA presentation and potential vote

Colleen explained that the Community Preservation Act Exploratory Committee collects funds through taxes and uses those funds towards affordable housing, open space recreation, and historical preservation. The Community Preservation Act Exploratory will suggest to the select board that they be placed on the 2022 Annual Town Meeting warrant with a 0.5% surcharge (with exceptions to low-income residents as well as low/moderate income senior residents). There is a process for this to be passed and put into place.

Bill asked how they had gotten to the 0.5% surcharge. Colleen explained that they had looked at what neighboring towns had been using as a surcharge percentage. She also noted that 0.5% is a starting number and they can always adjust in the future. At least 30% of the revenue must be used toward affordable housing, open space recreation, and historical preservation (a 10% split for each category). The remaining 70% must be used for these categories as well but the committee can decide what it is used for. Brian asked how much of a say we had as to where the money goes to. Colleen explained that there is another committee that needs to be established and they will be the ones that will determine how the rest of the revenue is used. Bill asked if there was any success story with using CPA funds or if the money is essentially stored and unused. Josh said that Hudson had used some CPA funds to renovate the beach area. Colleen explained that CPA complements budgeting and it requires strategy and planning. The state decides the match which is part of the budgeting process. Bill asked why we had not had CPA before. Beth explained that the timing was not favorable as the economy was slow. It is not that CPA had been voted down but the committee eventually stopped meeting although it had never been formally disbanded.

Bill said that in hearing and being part of this conversation, he was in favor of having and using CPA. Andrew mentioned his concern for having the CPA being put up and denied. He questioned

whether or not we would have to wait two years (or a specific period of time) to bring up CPA again to the town meeting. Colleen and Ian both said that they do not believe that we would have to wait an additional two years if the CPA was turned down and Ian added that he has only seen this waiting period in regards to zoning articles.

Bill motioned to make a statement and Brain seconded. The vote was unanimous 4-0.

Statement: The Recreation Commission supports placing the CPA on the 2022 Annual Town Meeting warrant with a 0.5% surcharge and applicable exemptions.

Bill suggested that we have someone in the recreation board in the committee that will manage where and how the funds will be used.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Rec. Commission approved on March 1st, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grethel Guzman-Ruck