

9/3/2019

Meeting Minutes Ashland Community Preservation Committee

Date: Tuesday September 3, 2019

Location: Ashland Town Hall Basement, Meeting Room A & B

In attendance: Joe Rupertone, Aaron Ladd, Cathy Van Lancker, Amy Sayed, Donna Saul, Eric Gemperline, Devin Cashman

Absent: Gretchen Bravacos

Guests: Michael Herbert, David Foster

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Mr. Ladd

### **Review previous meeting minutes**

-not discussed, will be review at future meeting

### **Discuss any potential projects for warrant article consideration**

Herbert introduced a proposal for \$38,000 for landscaping improvements near the long span bridge of the Riverwalk project near Mill Pond Park. It included a few drawings and an itemized list. The request pertained to item numbers 765. To 796.781, that included plantings as well as loam and seed for the area. CPC previously funded 25% of the cost of the Riverwalk project. The long span bridge is planned to begin construction in September and planned to be completed in approximately 4-6 weeks. This landscaping improvements was not part of the original scope of the Riverwalk project.

Ladd, asked how current landscaping would connect with the other bridge sidewalk by Myrtle Street, Mr. Herbert commented that the current proposal did not connect.

Rupertone commented that landscaping if part of the project to create and improve open space would fall under CPC guidelines for funding under open space or the recreation buckets of money as it would increase utilization of the space.

Sayed asked about the long term maintenance of plantings, weeding, upkeep, etc. The committee wanted to make sure committee member, Gretchen Bravacos would review the plans to provide feedback on plantings. Herbert indicated that plantings were designed to be natural and not require watering or general maintenance.

Ladd asked Herbert if any additional funding would be needed for the Riverwalk project in general. Herbert commented that there may be \$100,000 left over after the long span bridge work to work on the short span bridge by the VFW on pleasant street, but the cost of that bridge may be more than that amount available. It will require additional work to determine the price of the short span bridge, and funding source is to be determined.

The committee then discussed the importance of improving Mill Pond Park from Myrtle street to the new long span bridge, to help make a gateway to downtown and allow connections for a complete loop

of downtown. In addition, adding a stone dust connection from the sidewalk along Myrtle Street to the long span bridge would help improve safety and connections to the trail. The committee then discussed what the overall scope should be for the park overall, which included connectivity of trail for broad set of users, improved parking lot (level), a few benches, lighting options, enhanced area with native perennial plants. The committee asked Herbert to come back with a project that would be less than \$100,000 in total funding but would help update Mill Pond Park in broader overall terms.

Herbert commented he would come back in October with an itemized and detailed scope to improve the park overall

### **Valentine Property Update**

David Foster presented an update on work at the Valentine property. \$100,000 of CPC funds were given to help shore up the property and prevent future damage. So far Foster has completed the follow tasks with the funding

- Insurance for the building \$10,700.
- Engineering work to review the building safety \$2,700.
- Cleaning out of barn, haul away trash \$6,000.
- Clear brush and overgrowth and removal of materials \$10,000.
- Cut trees for \$7600.
- Repair of the fireplace chimneys throughout the home
- House cleaned out.
- Fire damage along the side of the house completely repaired.

Foster indicated that \$37,000 was left in funding and he was working on getting estimates to determine costs for repairs needed in the future. He was looking spend the remaining funds in the next 6-12 months

The committee asked if a sign out front would help show it as town property and inform visitors of its name. Foster would investigate this possibility.

Committee set next meeting for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, which would be a formal public hearing to review applications for town meeting warrant article consideration.

Motion to adjourned by Van Lancker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Saul. Approved 7-0