

Oak Bluffs CPC Meeting
10/06/2009
Oak Bluffs Library 2nd floor conference room

Members present: Stephen Durkee, Chairman. Cheryll Sashin, Jevon Rego, James Westervelt, Nancy Phillips, Joan Hughes, Alison Shaw*,

(*Left the meeting before Committee voting occurred)

Also present: Adam Wilson, Administrative Assistant. Sam Berlow & Kris Lukowitz, Vineyard Baseball.

The meeting began at 5:40 pm

-Stephen invited Sam & Kris to give an update on the status of the ball field proposal at the Leonardo Property. He said that Vineyard Baseball was invited to the meeting because questions had arose from the last CPC meeting about spending that has occurred to clear the property of trees and junk cars.

There is confusion whether it is still a little league project or a town project.

-Sam started off by saying he'd be happy to report on a regular basis to the committee the status of the project to keep everyone informed. He said they have been in constant communication both with the Parks Department and Wastewater on the status of the property and they were aware that spending from the 200K allocation had occurred. He talked about meetings he has had looking at the overall scope of the Leonardo Property and what needed to be done prior to it ever becoming ball fields. Sam said the property has come a long way from what it used to look like. He said he couldn't believe the improvements done for the 45,000 spent. Nancy said that Joe [Alosso] has also spent 45,000. Sam asked Kris how much it was to clear an acre. Kris said 12 to 15 thousand with the wildcard that metal debris had to be cleared as well. Sam said that considering the condition of the property, getting 6 acres cleared for 90 thousand was pretty good so far.

-Both Kris and Sam said a lot of progress has occurred at Leonardo but came to a halt in August when Wastewater began thinking it was time to put leeching fields under the property now instead of years down the road. A site plan was shown to committee members on where the recreation fields would go on the property. Jevon asked if there was DEP approval for the project being so close to the Tradewinds Well. Nancy said it had approval August 7th.

-The depth of the leeching fields was discussed both at Ocean Park and at Leonardo. Irrigation of the playing fields was also talked about. James talked about the money already spent on the project by other entities than Vineyard Baseball. Kris said that because it is town owned land, other entities, like Wastewater, have to have their priorities taken care of 1st before the creation of the playing fields. There was discussion of having a management agreement plan put in place between LL baseball and the town so that a course of action shows how the facility will be created and then maintained.

-Cheryll asked Sam & Kris, "who is holding the purse strings and is someone monitoring the funds?" Kris said he thought they had control because they applied for the grant in the 1st place. Cheryll said, "speaking for myself only I would tend to think that you would be in control of it and also go one step further in saying that you would want to be very cautious going forward because you could very easily wind up with no more money."

-Committee Members and Sam & Kris talked about the original request to the CPC was for 300k and the approval from the town being 200k. The history of the project was discussed, including the attempts to rescind the project money and the potential lawsuit that moved the project from Viera Park to the Leonardo field. The wording of the warrant article and its sponsors that approved the transfer of the project was re-read and discussed.

-Jevon asked how much scrutiny should be invested by the committee in project spending. Nancy said that she gets a printout every two weeks of what's in the CPA account and that Sam & Kris are aware of

the amount as well. She wanted to know that if this project's spending is to be scrutinized then perhaps other projects besides this one that has questionable spending practices should be looked at as well. James was looking for a clarification as to who to go to with regards to the status of the project now that it looked like three entities were involved. Sam hoped for a new entity combining those with a vested interest in the project together so that creating the new fields will be achieved through a mutual partnership. The October 20th vote at town meeting to allocate funds to build the leeching fields was discussed as well as what could happen if the vote failed.

Cheryll said, "so going forward we will have a structure where invoices will be submitted and approved through Vineyard Baseball because my concern is that I am very sensitive to the town putting invoices through for a project that in our minds was for Vineyard Baseball and to safeguard against Wastewater spending funds since they have a retained earnings account." Adam pointed out that the bills paid came through the Parks Department and not Wastewater. Cheryll said, "so going forward...that 150,000 is for Vineyard Baseball". Sam reiterated for Cheryll and the committee's benefit that the 150k still in the account was for Vineyard Baseball to use to create the baseball fields at Leonardo. He said they may have to seek more funds if necessary to complete what has been proposed.

-Committee Members talked about the project benefiting the little league organization, the town and kids throughout the island community. There was discussion about seeking funds from other town's CPA resources. Kris and Sam talked about how they will be staying with their organization until the project is completed but there is no timeline as to when the project will be finished.

-After Kris & Sam departed the minutes from 9/15 were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to have them accepted.

The Committee voted 5 – 0 – 1 to approve the minutes from September 15th.

-Next on the agenda was a discussion of voting for a new Chairman. Committee members talked about the length of appointments and who gets appointed from which representative community board. Adam stated that the committee has no policy about chairmanship and how someone becomes one and for how long. Joan said there was prior discussion about committee members not being chairman if they come to the table representing the interests of the committees they serve and have a portfolio to present each application year. It was understood the 4 selectmen's appointees were more neutral and serve the committee better as Chair.

Stephen asked about an election for Chairman and the possibility of having a Vice Chairman in case the Chairman couldn't make a meeting. It was decided that the Chairman could simply ask another member to run a meeting in case of his/her absence and that a Vice-Chairman wasn't needed.

-Cheryll asked that the Chairmanship and its rotation should be discussed since Stephen was going on to being Chairman for the 4th year. She only asked that the subject of considering a new Chairman be brought up each new CPA year.

-Joan made a motion to have the committee consider a vote for Chairmanship when the committee reconvenes at its 1st meeting in the fall. Jevon seconded.

The Committee voted 6 – 0 to establish a vote for chairmanship every year at the 1st meeting in the fall.

-Joan made a motion to have Steve serve as Chairman of the committee for 2009 – 2010. James seconded.

The Committee voted 5 – 0 - 1 to elect Stephen Durkee as Chairman for 2009 – 2010.

-Joan made a motion that Adam ensure that an acting Chairman be available should the Chairman not be able to attend a scheduled meeting and to revisit the idea of having a Vice Chairman next year. Cheryll seconded.

The Committee voted 6 – 0 to approve the motion.

-Adam gave a report about his trip to Boston to testify for SB 90, "An Act to Sustain Community Preservation." He said he was the only person there from the Vineyard and passed out info on the bill and its attempt to raise deed fees so that every CPA community would get a 75% match from the state and that the language would change so that rehabilitation can occur with open space and recreation projects. He said the bill should get a favorable report out of the committee since 83 legislators are supporting it. The bill is being presented as a "good news" piece of legislation. Adam testified that already 30 projects have been passed in the town and that the funding mitigates the town's need to seek overrides for projects related to open space and preservation.

-Applications for this year's review and the deadline were discussed as well as advertising in the papers. The application on the web site was talked about.

-Jevon asked what responsibility the committee has when it comes to spending oversight. Stephen said that as the invoices come in, if there are questions that arise about spending, the committee can seek answers to those questions. The checks and balances of project spending were discussed. Adam said if he has a concern about a request for payment, especially if it doesn't seem appropriate to the nature of the project, he seeks either clarification or a second opinion before signing off. James said that once the town votes on a project it is done. However the DOR does state that the committee "should track all appropriations and expenditures made from the fund, the Municipal Clerk certifies all appropriation votes and the accounting officer maintains the official financial records of the municipality, the committee should periodically monitor spending from the fund in a similar fashion as department heads would review monthly reports from the accounting officer."

-Adam & Cheryll had a brief discussion on prior requests for payment being somewhat controversial in their requests. Adam said any bill that was deemed questionable is signed off by at least two people ensuring that the request is valid to be paid. Stephen expressed his concern that projects should not trickle away all their appropriated money and have nothing left and are still not completed.

-The last piece of business was to try to find another time to meet since the 3rd Tuesday in each month was difficult for several members to attend. The Committee was asked by Adam to e-mail to him everyone's schedules of when they are not available. He said he would see if there was another day & time for all the members to be able to meet.

The committee decided **not** to meet Tuesday, October 20th since that is the night of the Special Town Meeting. The Committee will meet again on Tuesday, October 27th @ 5:00 pm in the 2nd floor library meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.