

DRAFT
Oak Bluffs CPC Meeting
1/20/2009
Oak Bluffs Library 2nd floor conference room

Members Present: Stephen Durkee, Chairman. Alison Shaw, Nancy Phillips, Joan Hughes, James Westervelt, Peter Martell, Cheryll Sashin*, Harvey Beth

Also present: Adam Wilson, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting began at 5:30 pm

*Arrived after minutes approval

Minutes from the 1/6/09 meeting were reviewed. Adam was complimented on the completeness of the draft. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented.

The Committee voted 6 – 0 – 1 to approve the minutes from January 6th.

The Committee reviewed the report Adam had produced breaking down project funding and spending to date. He stated that there had been money returned from prior years administrative expenses as well as a couple of projects deemed finished by the applicants for Hartford Park and the E. Chop Lighthouse. Committee members discussed prior projects. Harvey asked about money spent for the ball fields at the Leonardo property. Adam said he paid a Parks Department bill for land clearing.

-Joan said the septic systems program is now being looked at as a separate funding source the Board of Health could use with applications for design systems in nitrogen sensitive areas. She said that Dave Grunden would like to come back to the committee to explain how the funds could still be used in a manner they were intended for when 1st proposed. Steve said if the purpose changes, it has to go back to town meeting. There was discussion on having Dave at a meeting to explain what he wants to do.

-Adam commented on Tisbury's decision not to fund the boat program by Sail MV. He said the money allocation was not given by the Vineyard Haven Town Accountant even though the voter's approved the funding. There was talk about the DOR opinion and how much that weighed into the decision.

-There was more review of the money left over from prior years that was used to help fund the two church projects. Adam said there is still an interest amount that needs to be reported.

-The committee approved having a public meeting on CPC recommended projects for Feb. 3rd. The meeting will be held downstairs in the meeting room beginning at 5:30 pm. James asked what the meeting would entail. Alison asked if the applicants would be involved. Stephen said he doesn't anticipate much of an audience. James wondered what to do if people come to complain about the recommendations being made. Peter said any arguments could be made on town floor. Adam said it's in the language of the CPA that there is an annual meeting with the voters to discuss what's being projected. He said the committee and town does an outstanding job of informing the voters with the mailing that has occurred each year prior to the town meeting. James said it's important to have public input meetings in case there is an aspect of CPA funding that voters want to specifically address. It was thought that committee members should be looking for ideas for the future.

-Harvey brought up the fact that new CPA legislation was being introduced by City of Newton Senator Creem that would guarantee a 75% allocation each year in matching funds for those communities that have adopted the CPA.

-Nancy brought up new legislation that will add a "green" environmental category to the CPA. She said the selectmen will back that. There was discussion on what qualifies as being "green" already within the categories. Harvey said there is a new state agency to develop programs supporting green technology.

-Peter asked if there would be any money from the state next year. There was talk about how bad things were economically and the repercussions it would have with future state funding.

-Stephen reviewed where the committee was with the Inkwell Beach application. Adam said that he had not officially notified applicants of the favorable decisions for funding but they have been informed verbally of what's coming to them.

The committee at 6:05 heard from Kerry Scott, who is Chair of the Seaview Waterfront Committee. She said that she was disappointed that the CPC had already voted to recommend the projects and her committee's wasn't considered. She thought she still had time to bring to the CPC a revised plan to address the problems associated with Inkwell & Pay Beach. She said the Waterfront Committee didn't arrive at a consensus on how to revise their application and instead would've agreed to come to the committee seeking \$35,300 for an engineer study to alleviate the drainage problem at the beaches. She said she has been asked for 4 years to fix the beaches and without going into all the other aspects of the prior application which included Waban Park, could there be enough money to get just the one problem fixed before the start of the summer season. She thought she would have an opportunity to come back to the Preservation Committee and get it to vote for funding that would address one specific problem with the beach. Because the letter to her states there will be no further consideration, it feels like she was robbed of an opportunity that is now lost.

-Kerry said she was speaking for herself and not the whole committee. She said the original application that was submitted was not vetted by her full committee. She said that it included Waban Park's problems which were not part of what the waterfront committee was focusing on. She said she wished it had been withdrawn because it was doomed to fail. She said that it was disconcerting that the two people who wrote it sit on the CPC have at the same time authored projects of their own that were competing for the same preservation dollars. She said that as a Selectman she has a problem with people who sit on the committee who are advocates for their own projects and funding applications. She said it might be something the Board needs to address. She said that there was a difference between waterfront projects looking for money in the annual vs. the special town meeting.

-James said left over money could have been applied for last September but Kerry said her committee wasn't ready at that time to make its appeal. She said it's only been found out that a gravity system can work for the drainage problem and there are still questions on filtration but it could still work. She said the residents are not going to accept any more delays in fixing the great beach resources and money should be spent on it.

-Alison asked about the engineering study. Kerry and Alison discussed the differences in the types of engineering studies being proposed to the town. Kerry said that there is an opportunity to get more funding and finding bigger solutions to all the waterfront property the town has, including federal transportation money associated with state roads and the beachfront. She said the Waterfront committee is not ready to take on the entire issue of the town's oceanfront renovation but she hoped that asking for the proposed 35K to engineer a drainage solution for Seaview Waterfront was a short term answer showing residents that the town was producing results for the problems associated with the beaches.

-Cheryll talked to Kerry about what had transpired between the two meetings. Harvey asked Joan why the 75K engineering survey the committee recommended doesn't cover Kerry's project. Joan said the project covers studies going for the entire seawall. There's a difference between the stability study and beach nourishment, which Joan said covers a lot of what Kerry was looking for. Joan said she had already been to town meeting securing funds for a study the state asked for which charts sediment transport to limit drift. Joan said engineer Carlos bid for the various studies and reports is over 200K. Harvey asked if it makes sense to combine the engineering projects together. Joan said once the studies are completed, projects related to the beaches become qualified, for the most part, for agency funding. She said the goal for an area like the Seaview area is long term management and not short term. Drainage is a major issue for Inkwell & Pay Beach but so is handicap access and their overall look. She said part of the problem is not knowing where all the water is coming from.

-Peter said the course of action is to get baseline engineering done 1st. Joan said the coastline bank has to come first. There has to be a cohesive plan by all the engineers involved.

- Kerry said the denial letter sent was objectionable because of the statement that her committee lacked a cohesive plan tackling waterfront issues. She said the Selectmen are now going to direct the Seaview Waterfront Committee to take the lead in the effort to fix the beaches. She said that although Joan and ConCom have decided that the coastal bank and North Bluff is a top priority, the Selectmen have not determined or agreed that is necessarily the case. She said that she's had no opportunity to look at Joan's & Nancy's waterfront projects and is left with the indelible sense that she is competing against them. She said a year ago the top priority was Seaview drainage. Other projects have been added on in the area of the water front but it hasn't changed that taxpayers want Inkwell and Pay Beach fixed.
- There was discussion on what engineering reports have already been done for the North Bluff area and around East Chop. Kerry said she hopes that ConCom can get back into a position of doing what they are supposed to be doing, which is permitting, and her committee will take the lead in establishing the priorities, planning and obtaining grant approvals.
- Peter said not to forget allocating money for mitigation as well. There was talk about the real idea of what money is out there and who is really going to get it.
- Stephen said that CPA act is designed to have members from the conservation, parks and affordable housing groups that are on the committee to represent those interests and to fight for proposed projects in their category of CPA interest to get through. He also took exception to the accusation that the committee isn't promoting projects for the town's benefit. He said that repairing the beaches is a high priority for the town. But he said there has to be patience in getting the fix done because there are many steps and there's no point in going to step B when step A isn't done. Kerry said the 35K request should have been rolled into the ConCom's 75K request for overall engineering. Joan said the cost estimate from Carlos for Inkwell and Pay Beach only came out 10 days ago. To try and get the survey done now when other elements should be added to the report is not feasible.
- Kerry asked if the committee could find a way to come up with the 35K request and add it to ConCom's proposed shoreline engineering study. Nancy asked where the construction money would come from. Kerry said it would be DCR funded. There was debate on how this agency would be able to provide that amount.
- Kerry asked if the 35,300 should be made as a formal request to be added to the proposed recommendation for ConCom's engineering study. Adam stated that ConCom's warrant will be on the annual so revenue would not be available until July 1. Kerry wanted her request to be on the special so it would have to be separated out from conservation's proposed study. Adam said the request was in the minutes so the Committee didn't need Kerry's committee to make it formal.
- After Kerry left the meeting, the committee discussed the Waterfront Committee's request for \$35,300 to engage a report to fix the drainage problems at Seaview & Pay Beaches. Members thought that without consensus from the entire waterfront committee, the CPC should not be in a position to find whatever available money there might be to satisfy a selectman's desire to temporarily alleviate taxpayer's protests on the condition of the town beaches. The committee also discussed how the money requested could have come at any time and at any special town meeting the town had prior to the one coming up in April. The fact was the committee had made its recommendations for spending and allocated practically all that is available in revenue so there can't be a consideration for the requested amount unless the committee wanted to change the amounts it had already voted upon for the other projects recommended at the January 6th meeting.
- The committee, by consensus, decided to stand pat on what it was recommending for the warrant at April's Annual Town Meeting.

The Committee adjourned at 7:05