

Oak Bluffs CPC Meeting
11/18/2008
Oak Bluffs Library 2nd floor conference room

Members Present: Peter Martell, Acting Chairman. Alison Shaw, Nancy Phillips, Charles Rock, Cheryll Sashin, Joan Hughes, James Westervelt, Harvey Beth

Also present: Adam Wilson, Administrative Assistant

The meeting began at 5:30 pm

The Minutes from November 4th were discussed. Alison said that the five applications that were denied outright were for different reasons besides not categorically qualifying. Adam said he'd make the change to reflect that. Adam said he'd change the minutes to reflect which projects were going to counsel and which were not.

-Cheryll asked Peter if Steve had the chance to talk with Michael Dutton about the AA job description. She asked about funds being transferred from the administrative expense account to payroll account for the Building Department. She asked Adam for a clarification on how the position is being paid. Adam said he didn't know.

Cheryl then stated that the minutes from last meeting indicated that different topics were discussed about administrative expenses and payroll but she felt that they all tied in together. She clarified by saying: "When the committee is not aware of what is going on, it doesn't honor our process. And I also think that it undermines the integrity of the committee." She expressed her concern that members should be made aware of what's going on and there should be no perception that there has been misuse of public funds. She wants to know what the process is and to be aware of it and to be on board with it. She asked that the AA job responsibilities and compensation be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

-Nancy asked about which projects were going to counsel for review. Adam said he'd change the minutes to reflect which projects were going to counsel and which were not. Nancy asked if ConCom's Engineering Survey project was being vetted. Charles said that wasn't proposing any improvements. Committee members talked about how beaches & parks qualify as "open space" and the jurisdictions different departments have over different parts of the town.

-Brock Callan from Sail MV was the 1st presenter on the agenda and gave background on the project to acquire two 14' wooden historic work skiffs. He said the organization had a fleet of old Boston Whalers that had become expensive to maintain and had safety issues. He said Sail MV wanted to go in a new direction consistent with their teaching mission to preserve and protect the maritime history of the island. So their fleet would all be wooden boats locally made and designed to be used in local waters. They looked into what could be built historically as reproductions of the types of boats once used. The model they came up with is called a Flat Iron Skiff. He acknowledged that they are historical "reproductions." He said the language of the CPA allows for the acquisition of a historically correct vessel. He said the boats tie in with the historic culture of the town.

The boats are 13'9" long and have been built by many boat builders throughout the maritime history of the Vineyard. He said they cost \$8,500 to be built ready to be launched. He had letters to present if the committee needed documentation supporting the historic application.

-Peter asked why OB? Brock said the boathouse is in OB. He said 282 children participate in the free program at the Sailing Camp Park. He said a similar proposal for 4 boats passed through Tisbury's CPC and was passed at town meeting but the Town Accountant there has questioned whether it is a "created" project or "acquired".

-There was discussion about how Sail MV had to get around having the 4 boats without the Tisbury CPC money. They have 7 coach boats to replace and will only keep two of the present fleet. He said an application is also in with Chilmark since part of the program is done there.

Joan said Sail MV built the boathouse at the Sailing camp but the town owns it.

Brock showed Nancy a schematic of what the proposed boat look like. He said they are called “flat iron” because the outline of the bottom of the boat looks exactly like that. They are used as work boats for coach, hauling moorings, moving floats and to tow other boats.

Chuck asked Brock about Sail MV’s financials and their fundraising capabilities. He stated if the organization is on sound footing, why the need for CPA funds. Brock said they’ll end the year with about 70k in cash but will spend 10K a month in overhead. He said by spring there’s only 20K in the bank to start up again so they have to be successful in fundraising. They provide education to island kids that is either free or at low cost so applications of this sort are vital in keeping the program going.

Harvey asked about boat replacement. Brock said 4 out of the 7 have been and they are seeking 3 more with 2 proposed in this application.

The next speaker was Donald Billings for the Fire Department Antique Truck Museum. He said the purchase of the 1929 Engine 2 truck comes with a deal to build a structure to house the vehicle and store all the history of the firemen who’ve served on it as well as the service it has provided to the town. Don stated they have raised 30k in donations already. The fire truck was bought for 10k. A recent appraisal shows it is worth 35K. They are building the garage at the fire station and have already received in kind support from personnel there as well as materials being used for construction.

-Don said the design of the structure would look similar to the Cottagers Building over on Pequot Avenue. The structure would be similar to the Victorian garage that stored the truck when Don served on it in the 1940’s. He passed around pictures of the restoration that has been done on the truck. There -

-He hopes to have the project finished by next September.

Charles asked about a budget figure. Don said 45 to 49K should do it all so with contributions collected so far 15 – 20K would still be needed.

-He said the new building is designed to be out of the way so that if there was any future expansion of the current fire station, the museum building wouldn’t be in the way. Engine 2 was taken out of service in 1956.

-The next applicants were with Trinity Methodist Church. Reverend Rich Rego, Chris Craft, Carol Walton and Barney Zeitz spoke to the committee of their goal to redo the windows at the church in the campgrounds.

The Reverend talked about the Camp Meeting Association and the church became nationally recognized as a historical landmark. He talked about the church being part of the whole campground and tabernacle experience. He said they are seeking restoration of the windows within the church.

-Barney said he has done restoration work on the windows both 20 and 2 years ago. He said the technique used today to re-lead the windows will make them last for much longer periods of time.

There are a total of 40 half windows. He said all but 7 of the windows are in great shape but the 7 are in need of major restoration. Rich talked about the history of stained glass windows. He presented a slide media presentation showing the oxidation that has occurred on the windows and different views of the damage that has occurred. Rich showed pictures of the church and the inside of the sanctuary. The images showed damaged cracks and a bowing problem the windows have.

Barney explained to the Committee how he could go about a restoration that would be correct and long lasting. He said past attempts to glaze and repair the windows have made the situation worse. The goal is to preserve what is still there and bring the windows back to the original quality.

-Charles asked about cost. Barney said each half window is 4K to repair and 16 of them are in need of preservation/repair. He told committee members that any amount of the 64K request would help. If the committee recommended 32K they would do 8 windows. Any increment of four would help.

-Rich said 268k has already been spent on renovating the church. Barney said the goal is to try and fix some of the windows and not all of them. Rich said there would be a campaign to raise funds so that the

rest of them could be done. There was discussion on how much that would be and how a major storm could permanently damage what's needed for repair.

Town Clerk Deborah Ratcliffe came in next to talk about town records preservation. She had contacted a company, Browns-River, who has developed different preservation techniques for old documents like birth and marriage certificates. Deb said that old assessor's records need to be preserved as well. The cost estimate is 38K. All records will be kept in the current vault. She said it's only for the older records as today's records are kept safe with better document materials.

Deb said copies of old records will be kept on film. There is no plan to digitize anything. She only had one quote to present to the committee.

-Harvey asked about Mormon work on records restoration. Deborah said some of the records have been preserved by them. Deborah said Edgartown and Nantucket have used the same company for this type of preservation project.

-Peter brought up his fuel assistance project. He talked about qualifying the proposal in with CPA community housing. He said the request is for 50K. Peter talked about how the project could go on the warrant. He wants to work with Council on Aging on getting residents identified for need. He talked about the state scale to qualify for fuel assistance.

-Adam stated he and Town Accountant Karen Gomez had gone over the numbers of returned administrative expense money that went back into the CPA general fund the last two years and that there is over 42K available. He also thought interest could make up the 50K balance but had no information as to what's accrued in the fund since it was created.

-Peter talked about how the money could be apportioned out and how the funds would be controlled and the bills paid.

-Alison questioned how the fuel suppliers benefit from the cost of island fuel. She had concerns that the project would support the cost of fuel on the island. Harvey said that some of the funding could also come from available free cash that will be voted upon at the scheduled town special. James stated his concern with this qualifying as an affordable housing project. Cheryll said the project's process for distribution of the proposed funds has not been totally figured out. She understands how timing is of the essence and understands the stated need but can't vote for the project when it is unclear how it will be clearly implemented. Other members of the committee discussed who else will be participants in the plan on the local and state level.

Peter made a motion to create up to 50K warrant for the fuel assistance program out of the CPA available funds. Joan seconded.

James reiterated it's not a CPA affordable housing project. James said the Council on Aging should ask for the money from the town's free cash. Harvey said perhaps Emergency Management could ask for the money out of free cash. There was discussion on how to get the appropriation on the floor of the town meeting.

The vote was 2 for, 6 against. The motion failed.

The next meeting was scheduled for 12/2 @ 5:30pm

The meeting ended at 7:05 pm.