

DRAFT
Oak Bluffs CPC Meeting
12/19/06
Oak Bluffs Library 2nd floor conference room

Members Present: Stephen Durkee, Chairman. Joan Hughes, Cheryll Sashin, Alison Shaw, Charles Rock, Peter Martell, James Westervelt, Mike Marchand, Harvey Beth

Also Present: Adam Wilson, Administrative Assistant
The meeting began at 10:06 am

-Steve motioned the minutes from 12/5 to be approved. Charles seconded.

The Board voted 6-0-2 to approve Dec 5th's meeting minutes.

Steve indicated there would be 7 applications for both historical preservation and open space/recreation before the Committee to be reviewed. The agenda would start with the application asking for the smallest amount of funds to the one asking for the most.

1. Invasive Species Mapping. (Dave Grunden – Shellfish Warden)

-Joan advocated for the project saying the amount is for funding in addition to the grant the town has received for the Massachusetts Estuaries project. Also Mass highways are involved because of the culvert that continually clogs up from the road. Most of the funding request (6 thousand) is for equipment can be used by other departments (Cemetery – grave site mapping.)

-Peter asked how it fits as open space. Farm pond is being brought back because it used to be a recreational space. James said that it defines itself as open space. The hope is that it is restored to its original state for boating, shell fishing and the like. Alison said Farm Pond is an important part of Oak Bluffs and already has funding and community support. She thought it would be good for the Committee to jump in and participate. By consensus Committee Members agreed it categorically qualified for CPA funding.

2. Mini Grant Program for Denitrifying the Ponds. (Shellfish Department) Joan said there's a big problem with nitrogen loading in the ponds. Denitrifying is being pushed by both the Shellfish Department and the Board of Health to protect Lagoon, Sengekontacket and Farm Pond. Septic System upgrades cost 5K additional. Joan said new systems are being created all the time. New generation of sanitary disposal systems are coming into place. The funding could generate low interest loans could be available as incentive to get new systems into the ground. Joan went on to say there are a lot of people who have inherited homes and really don't have the money for septic upgrade.

-Charles said he approves of the request and Mike said to invite Dave Grunden to come and present.

3. Hartford Park Restoration. (Parks Department) Mike spoke on behalf of the neighbors coming to the parks department complaining about the condition of the park and the current work they are already doing for it. The Parks department wanted to do it with free cash but wasn't any. Idea is for money used to upgrade the park with an irrigation system and fresh loam and then let neighbors take care of it. Idea is that the department would work in conjunction with neighbors to maintain the park. Steve asked if sprinkler system is necessary. Mike said lack of water is the reason it needs help.

-Peter asked what category. Committee members said it was either open space or recreation. Steve talked with people in Boston and was told that applications can be massaged to be allowed under any category. Committee members agreed it's worthwhile and highly visible. Irrigation of public spaces can be questioned by members when they invite the parks department to talk about the project.

4. East Chop Lighthouse Restoration (Lighthouse Restoration Committee)

-Steve brought up the fact that this request was seeking \$140,000.

-Charles asked Committee members if they should consider putting a spending limitation on all projects for the current year. Peter agreed.

-Mike thought that putting a spending limit would crush some of the projects presented. Several applications have timelines that can't wait year after year for ongoing funding.

-Alison thought that the lighthouse project does have high, medium and low priorities and funds could be allocated accordingly.

-Joan said the project ties in with other lighthouses on the island. Alison said what are other towns doing with funding for their lighthouses? Steve said it's the only application under the historic preservation. He felt it is a high visibility project. "One of the jewels of the town."

-The Committee spoke briefly about the funding for the bandstand.

Steve said the project can move forward and a level of funding can be discussed. Alison said that when the lighthouse applicants come speak to the committee about their proposal, they can let them know how other lighthouse restorations are proceeding with their funding requests.

-Harvey requested that Adam look into what other towns on the island have going for CPA projects, both approvals and denials. He thought it could be good information in seeing where the island community is going with their respective CPA's.

-The Committee, by consensus, approved this application for further review.

5. Public Access Fishing Pier (Surfcasters Association)

-Alison thought the project is not well thought out. Joan said the Association approached the SSA about a pier off of their planned new dock but the SSA does not allow public access fishing for a variety of safety and insurance reasons. She thought a small amount of money to hire an engineer to look into the feasibility of the project maybe alright. She said the idea of a public access pier for fishing would require complex permitting from many different agencies. Alison said the Association should do more homework. Peter said the project does not appear to be feasible. Alison stated that the Association has no experience in building this type of pier, there is no schedule of when it would get done, there is no financials about the Association's organization and no other known sources for additional funding...

-Alison made a motion for the project to be dropped. Mike seconded.

The Board voted unanimously 9 - 0 to reject the fishing pier application.

6. The Seaview Avenue Boardwalk and railing replacement. (Various Town of Oak Bluffs agencies)

-Joan said they've gotten money from Friends of OB to hire an architect (Thomas Weurth), to completely design the fence and bench design.

The Committee discussed what classification it falls under. Peter questioned if the request for funding should be considered at all because he thinks the railing replacement is maintenance. Cheryl said that open space is lands to protect scenic vistas. Joan said it's a beautification project that will bring back a lot of original parts and be included in the total restoration of places like pay beach.

Peter strongly feels that it's maintenance. Questions should be asked if it qualifies. Joan talked about showing the public a prototype of fence and bench for opinion.

The Committee agreed that the Boardwalk group should meet with the CPC on January 16th.

7. Viera Park Baseball (Vineyard Baseball)

-Mike talked about the requested amount. James asked about park ownership. Committee members agreed the project is worthwhile but wants to meet with the baseball group to ask more questions. The Committee agreed to meet with the baseball people on the 16th.

-Charles once again brought up the subject of capping amounts for projects.
-Harvey said the funds are from the tax base and should be used. Committee members discussed limits and “holding back.” The result of the discussion revealed that Committee members are very divided on how much money should be spent and if money is given over varying periods of time.
The Committee talked about posting the agenda for the 16th exactly as how the applications were discussed today. The 9th will be for housing proposals. The meeting on the 16th would have 15 minutes for smaller projects and 30 minutes for the larger ones.

Charles asked about regional get together on CPC issues. Steve talked with Christine Flynn from the MVC about island wide planning and thought everyone is too busy to make it happen.

-Adam will e-mail other CPC administrators about what’s going on with them.

-Charles asked if there is a way he can be part of the meeting long distance. Steve and Adam will look into telecommunications efforts.

The meeting concluded at 11:30 am