

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF 3/8/06 MEETING  
2<sup>nd</sup> DRAFT

Members present: Stephen Durkee, Harvey Beth, Cheryl Sashin, Peter Martell, Joan Hughes.

Other participants and attendees: Casey Sharpe, Kerry Scott, Adam Wilson,

Members Absent: Charles Rock, Allan deBettencourt, Alison Shaw, David Wessling

The meeting was held in the Library Historical Room. Stephen Durkee, Acting Chairman began the meeting at 9:35 am.

**Minutes from 2/15 meeting were motioned, seconded and unanimously approved.**

A discussion began with Board members about the CPC's vision statement.

Stephen's statement was discussed at length. It is as follows:

“The mission of the Oak Bluffs CPC is to offer recommendations to current and future generations of Oak Bluffs. To preserve our heritage, provide for our families and protect our future.”

The Committee members talked about how to keep the statement short and succinct. There was discussion on how to format the statement so that it covered everything about the CPA in a short and easy narrative.

-Cheryl stated that the statement should reflect the duty of the CPC by incorporating the following:

“To offer recommendations in preservation of open space, historical property and affordable housing, preserving our heritage, providing for our families and protecting our future.”

CPC members then had a lengthy discussion about how to let townspeople know what the CPA is all about. Suggestions were made about members of the committee staffing an info table at Town Meeting. Stephen said he could format the vision statement for a mailing that would let OB residents know what the CPA is all about.

The Committee discussed how to inform residents, both year round and seasonal, through the different mailing lists available. Discussion centered on types of lists: Resident v. Voter.

-Casey talked about the merging of lists that the Town Clerk has and how they can be merged to provide one list for a complete mailing.

-Harvey asked that an **action occurs** to get the CPC a proper mailing list. The Committee discussed how to sell the CPA and the 3 blocks of support it can give the community. The creation of a web site was discussed.

-Peter asked if the CPC generates its own projects or listens to other proposals. Harvey said the CPC can and should do both.

-Harvey suggested that the committee should splinter itself so that it can tackle issues and proposals on a task force basis.

The Committee talked about the need to create forums to articulate the CPA's value

-Stephen asked if there is a meeting for summer taxpayers. Casey said that the BOS does have one and possibly two.

The committee talked about the taxation process. Points of view were shared about the difficulty people have in paying taxes, both personal as well as business.

-Harvey stated that CPC members are only recommending how the money will be spent. Education is a key ingredient for things like affordable housing and open space. “We need to show the public that many of their decisions will help keep future tax bills more level because with proper planning of

projects we will be able to improve our quality of life without adding to our expenditure base."

-Cheryl asked how the revenue gets transferred into the separate accounts. Harvey said voters at town meeting decide how the money gets spent in each category based on committee's recommendations. The Committee discussed how the 3 accounts and the reserve fund are set up and used. Joan said that projects can mesh and funds can be used from the different funds. The Committee realized that they can be quite creative in figuring how revenue can be used for a variety of different projects.

-Casey discussed the warrant article and the town voting for it. The amounts in reserve are 10% of projected revenue:

Historic Resources	\$34, 865
Community Housing	\$34, 865
Open Space	\$34, 865
Reserve	\$244,055

State matching should occur in October. Casey thought though that it won't come in '06 but in '07.

-Peter asked how a big project can be paid for over a period of years. Harvey said you set up a bond and create debt service to pay over a period of time.

-Casey stated that borrowing is all about how you intend to pay it back.

-Casey asked that the Finance Committee support the warrant article for the special meeting and write language as an addendum to the warrant explaining how Town Residents get final say on voting for the projects recommended by the CPC.

**-Harvey motioned that the warrant article be adopted by the CPC and presented to the FinCom requesting their support and favorable recommendation for town meeting, Stephen seconded.** Kerry asked how do the voters know? Kerry wants the voters to know that the CPA money won't be spent unless it's by the voters at town meeting. Harvey suggested that there should be a table at Town Meeting to explain CPA and how money has been spent. Peter thought that a mailing prior to town meeting helps in the decision making process.

-Joan thinks that the CPC's vision and purpose should get out into the press. Casey asked if the press can be asked to come to the MV Commission's workshop on 3/16. Harvey thinks the collaborative and the various CPC's should get together and have the press interview the various leaders. The Commission's workshop can be used for public relations, web site creation and budgeting.

1)Use the workshop to organize the CPC

2)Use the workshop form an island wide consensus.

-Kerry thinks that press releases don't really work because there isn't reporting. There's no interview with a reporter.

-Casey stated that Adam would get together a job description for the next meeting.

THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (5 - 0) TO ASK THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR ITS RECOMMENDATION ON THE WARRANT ARTICLE (#10) FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CPC FUNDS.

Town Meeting is April 11th. Stephen said he would sit at a table for handing out information. The Committee concluded that at both Special and Annual Town Meeting Harvey, Joan and Alison should sit.

Joan stated that Committee members in attendance would promote to Residents that the CPC is "Not spending the money, just recommending what it is spent for."

The Board went back to a discussion of the handout for Town Meeting and discussed making copies among themselves for Town Meeting since there is currently no money in the CPA account. Members concluded that 500 copies should cover town-meeting and other venues.

The Committee divied up the responsibility of generating and copying documents about mission statement and other relevant CPA facts.

Committee members scheduled to meet again 3/15 in Town Hall @ 9:30am in the Conservation Commission room. (Brief meeting)

-Harvey said a presentation at senior center prior to town meeting might be a good rehearsal. Possible Q & A. Joan wants CPC presentation to be short and sweet. The Committee agreed to plan for a 4/7 meeting at Senior Center and scheduled their next regular meeting 3/29 at 9:30 in the Library Historical room.

-Stephen inquired about CDC involvement. The committee thought it may be too confusing to have both there at this time.

The Committee motioned to adjourn at 11:05