



Town of Southwick
454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077
Community Preservation Committee
Telephone (413) 569-6056 - Fax (413) 569-5284
Town Web Site: www.southwickma.org



Minutes

June 19, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Chris Pratt, Vice Chair
David Gunn
Karen DeMaio
John Whalley III
Susan Fox

Absent: Bob Horacek, Chair
Joanne Horacek
Maria Seddon
David Sutton

Mr. Pratt opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. and had all the members present to introduce themselves to the people attending and what Boards they represent.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Gunn and seconded by Mrs. Fox to accept the April 3rd minutes.
(Vote was unanimous)

Contribution of legal fees

Discussion:

Mr. Pratt wanted to know more about why the committee is being asked to contribute money to legal counsel. Mrs. Fox added that all the other boards are being asked to contribute as well. Mr. Whalley asked how much the committee is being asked to contribute. Mr. Pratt answered about \$5,000, and also added that he spoke to Mr. Stinehart who said that it will come out of the committee's administrative budget. Mr. Pratt was still inquisitive that the committee should have to pay. Mrs. Fox recalled when the committee had several issues that needed counsel. Mr. Gunn asked if the amount being asked is evenly divided amongst other committees. Mrs. DeMaio asked if it was because of the legal issues in regards to North Pond. Mr. Pratt said that he wasn't sure. He also added that the time that was spent with the committee, was worth more than what is being asked and that the committee should appropriate what is fair.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Whalley to table this until an invoice was found. It was not seconded (Vote was failed)

A **MOTION** was made by Mrs. Fox and seconded by Mrs. DeMaio to approve paying \$3,500 for legal counsel. (Vote: For-Mr. Pratt, Mr. Gunn, Mrs. DeMaio and Mrs. Fox. Against-Mr. Whalley)

Authorizing CAO to use FY20 admin \$ for Open Space Plan

Discussion:

Mr. Pratt invited Mr. Clark to the table to discuss the status of the Open Space Plan.

Mr. Clark stated that originally it was thought to use Pioneer Valley Planning because it would be in a file. It was found that the information wasn't up to date or even correct. The Open Space Committee had made a purchase order for Cartographic's in the amount of \$4,500, which \$2,000 was spent so far. Mr. Clark added that there is much more money that is needed to finish the Plan. Mr. Pratt asked Mr. Clark if he had a number in mind of how much more money that is needed. Mr. Clark was unsure, but will be bringing it to the state for a review and depending on what they say the Committee will need in addition to the original budget. Mrs. Fox asked if the committee needs to decide on a certain amount. Mr. Clark suggested that the committee can choose an amount to go up to. Mrs. DeMaio wanted to be assured that there was going to be enough money in the account to be able to spend towards the Plan. Mr. Pratt stated that there will be more money going into the account in FY20. Mr. Pratt pointed out that the Plan will be a good thing and a time frame should be put to it. Mr. Clark stated that if the town doesn't have a Master Open Space Plan, grant money won't be issued. Mr. Gunn stated that he has a lot of confidence in Mr. Stinehart to administer the funds.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gunn and seconded by Mrs. Fox to authorize Mr. Stinehart to administer funds to the Open Space Plan as needed. (Vote was unanimous)

Mr. Pratt asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to be heard. Michelle Pratt stood up. She stated that the committee should discuss more about the money that is being spent on projects instead of the way it has been done. She added that the North Pond Project will be closing next week and we should be celebrating that.

Mr. Clark also stood up to be heard. He stated that he didn't mean to undermine the committee at the town meeting, but the APR's were being taken advantage of and the committee was given bad information. Mr. Pratt stated that he appreciates that Mr. Clark was able to help and he saved the town some money because of it.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Gunn and seconded by Mr. Whalley to adjourn at 7:35 P.M. (Vote was unanimous)

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy DeMay
Secretary - CPC

Bob Horacek, Chairman

Chris Pratt, Vice Chairman

John Whalley III

David Gunn

David Sutton

Karen DeMaio

Joanne Horacek

Susan Fox

Maria Seddon