



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
Wednesday
January 15, 2020
7:00 PM
Land Use Room

ATTENDANCE: Chris Pratt, Acting Chair
Joanne Horacek
Susan Fox
David Spina
Tom McLaughlin
Beth Thomas

Absent: John Whalley
Maria Seddon
Ruth Preston

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lee Hamberg
See attached

- C. Pratt opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. and had the members introduce themselves, as well as their affiliation to the board, and to the people attending the meeting. He explained that there were documents in their folders for them to view and further explained the application process. He suggested they review the material and begin with the minutes of the last meeting from June 19, 2019.

- **A MOTION** was made by S. Fox to accept the minutes and seconded by C. Pratt (Vote-Unanimous)

Review draft of available funding and discussion on application to put forward funding for the Alum Treatment of Congamond Lakes.

DISCUSSION:

- C. Pratt requested the committee to review the Formal Application petition for the Alum Treatment and review the current financial position of the CPC Committee funds, and what monies were available for the CPC use.

- He called the Applicant, Select Board, R. Fox to explain their request for funding for the Alum Treatment of the Congamond Lakes, their position, the letter to the Lt. Governor and further explain their application, as well their urgency to obtain funding.

- C. Pratt further clarified the purpose of the Alum Treatment over the current usage of copper sulfate to treat the lakes of toxic algae blooms. He also spoke in support of the Applicant and reiterated the importance to the town economy, the residents and the benefits to the overall health of the lakes, reducing the threat of the toxic algae blooms. It would prevent the shut down of the lakes and should last 10-15 years.

- R. Fox referenced Dr. Eric Muller who is working with the town to ensure the lakes viability. He also explained that the town is still seeking outside funding from the state, but the process is lengthy and the Select Board and other state holders felt it was not in the best interest to wait for state reimbursements or funding at this time. They would continue to be seeking monies, but felt time was of the essence. They were proposing that a *special town meeting* be held and a warrant article, which would stipulate if any funding were to come in it would offset the monies asked for, and this article be voted on in the *special town meeting*. They estimated the monies needed would be about \$600,000.

- K. Stinehart spoke to further clarify the bidding process and financial ramifications to the town, reinforcing the urgency and need for action to begin in the Spring of 2020 before the “algae bloom,” period.

- D. Moglin stated it was the states responsibility to step up, but they could not wait. He said the timing is critical and agreed to put it on the warrant for a *special town meeting*.

- K. Stinehart and C. Pratt explained that the funding did fit in with the application rules for approved usage of CPC funding.

- R. Fox also reiterated they would continue to seek government funding.

- K. Stinehart responded that he had been in touch with the governor’s office to reinforce their effort to seek state aid.

- R. Fox listed the importance of the lake as an, “economic force,” affecting not only the residents, restaurants, fishing and visitor’s enjoyment. He stated it is also helping to recharge our Aquifer.

- S. Fox questioned if Suffield was going to participate in the funding.

- R. Fox responded they have been asked and are participating in other ways, but will not be helping with this funding.

- C. Pratt stated Suffield has helped with the Copper Sulfate treatments and other lake matters.

- B. Thomas asked if the state were to give \$600,000 in funding, would it be able to go back to the CPC.

- K. Stinehart stated they could not be reimbursed, but the monies would go to other important projects.

- C. Pratt explained the money would have to be returned to the General Fund, or earmarked for other lake projects.

- D. Moglin responded it could be used in other projects and still benefit the town.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(Not verbatim-comments can be heard on the studio tape www.southwick.org)

- D. Clark - 75 Fred Jackson Rd. asked if the CPC could bond for the project.
- K. Stinehart and C. Pratt spoke to the urgency of the treatment because the preferred time to treat would be in the early Spring. He also noted that the new tax money would be coming to the committee as well.
- S. Fox asked about other pending projects for the CPC.
- C. Pratt confirmed that there were none at this time and all current projects were already set.
- D. Herath of 3 Shore Road spoke about the few companies that were available to do these treatments and spoke about the need to move quickly.
- K. Stinehart said they were ready to obtain a P.O. to retain a vender and it should go out to bid.
- D. Moglin, responded that they need to get a vote from the committee to put in writing an article to go on the warrant and get approval at a *special town meeting* in March. That is why they were approaching the committee in the first place.
- R. Fox stated prior year bids were \$515,970 to \$545,000.
- K. Stinehart also said they were looking to get bids or use the company that was already doing the invasive plant lake treatments.
- M. Pratt -152 Berkshire Avenue spoke as a representative of the Citizen's Restoring Congamond Lakes. She thanked all involved and spoke to the importance of supporting this project for a variety of reasons. She also sited several other towns that have used CPC funds for such purposes. She stressed the fact that they could not risk the wait for other funding.
- J. Crane -308 Halladay Drive, Suffield called it a "No Brainer."
- J. Davenport -112 Berkshire Avenue questioned the successfulness of the proposed treatment.
- C. Pratt addressed the towns actions to control drainage into the lakes and explained the technical benefit of the Alum vs. the Copper Sulfate.
- J. Davenport further asked about algae and confirmed the treatment would help with this as well.
- R. Fox explained the Army Core of Engineers is involved in dredging and storm water management.
- K. Stinehart responded that the town has a new Storm Water Coordinator.

Public discussion was ended and turned back to the committee:

- C. Pratt restated that he felt it was a good use of CPC funds and as chair of the Conservation Committee he felt this treatment is imparative.
- K. Stinehart suggested the committee reconvene in several weeks to allow time for it to go out to bid.
- C. Pratt expressed a need for the group to make a decision.
- L. Hamburg spoke about the impact bonding would have.
- R. Fox and K. Stinehart responded that they would do what was in the best interest of the town and the tax payers.

Groups discourse took place.

- L. Hamburg asked about the Copper Sulfate treatment.
- C. Pratt responded it would only be used as needed and the Alum Treatment was designed to last 10-15 years and was a proactive insurance policy.

- C. Pratt further explained that this action is not raising taxes, it is money that has already been paid in by the tax payers.

- **A MOTION** was made by J. Horacek and seconded by D. Spina to send the treatment out to bid. (Vote-Unanimous)

The audience responded with an applause. A short break while most of the audience left the room.

NEW BUSINESS /ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

- M. Phelps - 28 Depot Street suggested putting signage at the various CPA projects to make the public aware what the CPA has funded and contributed to. He sited a number of projects and areas to place these signs. (Moore House, Powder Mill Playground)
- S. Fox thought it was a good idea.
- C. Pratt explained the committee would look at projects and if they met the criteria then they would bring it to a town vote.
- L. Hamburg asked further questions of C. Pratt
- J. Horacek brought up a new topic about Veteran's housing and an office for Veterans to be located in town.
- C. Pratt stated if there were monies available from CPC funds, this could be looked into.
- L. Hamburg responded with CPC funds? Clarification was given.
- T. McLaughlin questioned about the use of the housing and or office and some ideas were discussed.
- J. Horacek stated there were no facilities for Veterans in Southwick and many were not very close by, so she would like to look into this as a possible project.
- C. Pratt said to look over the criteria and that the idea sounded good.

A MOTION was made by S. Fox and seconded by J. Horacek to adjourn at 8:00 P.M. (Vote-Unanimous).

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Corey
Secretary – CPC

Chris Pratt, Acting Chairman

Beth Thomas

John Whalley III

Thomas McLaughlin

David Spina

Ruth Preston

Joanne Horacek

Susan Fox

Maria Seddon