

**Town of Marshfield  
Community Preservation Committee  
Open Meeting Minutes --- November 18, 2020  
ZOOM Video Remote Meeting**

**Members Present:** Kevin Cantwell - Chair, Tim Russo - Vice Chair, Bert O'Donnell, Michele Campion, Mike Bilas, Denis Kelleher, 7:22 pm - Kerry Richardson.

**Guests:** Shawn Patterson, John Eaton, Jim Miller, Cara McAuley. Amy Boyce, Dean Copeland, Cindy Castro. Susan Wolfe, Mike Wolfe, Kathleen Carr, Susan Caron, "Scout," Tom Whalen.

**Call to Order:** Denis Kelleher made a Motion to open the meeting at 7:01 pm. Motion seconded by Bert O'Donnell. Approved 6-0 by Roll Call Vote: Denis Kelleher - yes, Mike Bilas - yes, Tim Russo - yes, Bert O'Donnell - yes, Kevin Cantwell - yes, Michele Campion - yes.

**Ballfields/Playgrounds:** DPW Superintendent, Shawn Patterson requests \$100,000 of CPC funding to include \$50,000 for an updated playground in Marshfield Hills and \$50,000 for capital improvements to other fields in Town.

S Patterson explained that although he does not have a specific structure or estimate as yet, this amount is based on past project costs and he wished to secure funding first. DPW will be able to cover excavation/site work to include removal of old equipment, digging a new perimeter, and moving in new mulch.

Denis Kelleher said it is important to involve the local community in decisions. He also recommended a possible collaboration with the Recreation Dept. in order to take advantage of package deals, as they are both looking for new structures.

Mike Bilas, Bert O'Donnell and Michele Campion agreed that they would like to see a specific proposal before any decision would be made.

Abutters - John Eaton, Jim Miller and Cara McAuley all thanked the DPW for the upgrade consideration. They explained that the original privately funded structure is in need of an overhaul. Although the swing set is solid, the basketball court is a safety concern, mulch needs replenishment, a ramp is necessary for ADA compliance, benches would be helpful, overgrowth needs removal, and a structure specifically for younger ages is desired. There are roughly ten kids a day using the equipment. Parking is limited, so keeping the area sized appropriately is important.

Shawn Patterson will be in contact with Cara McAuley, who offered to survey other parents of what equipment they would like to see there. Shawn will report to the CPC at December's meeting with a more detailed plan.

**Hatch Mill:** Kevin Cantwell read letters of support from Hatch Mill neighbors Susan Wolfe, Patricia Messer and Kenny and Kristen Robichaud.

Tom Whalen, a past CPC board member, stated he has always been in support of this project but feels the Town has already fulfilled their obligation. Further funding of a privately owned structure is too much to ask taxpayers.

Amy Boyce gave an overview of the estimate proposals from Merrill Associates and Steinbeck and Taylor. Although a few specifics remain to be clarified, a ballpark estimate will be \$200,000 for engineering, hydro raking and trucking.

Bert O'Donnell recommended that a spreadsheet be created with cost itemization.

Tim Russo asked who owned the pond, if it was accessible to the public. Have any public tours been arranged as previously mentioned?

Dean Copeland replied that the Hatch Mill owns the pond but it is publicly accessible. Two - three open houses are organized a year in coordination with the Marshfield Historic Society. Marshfield High School groups, Bennett Street School in Boston and South Shore VoTech have given demonstrations and or toured at the Mill.

Kerry Richardson inquired about fundraising done in the past and expected for the future. Have they identified individuals or other organizations that may possibly be of help? Has a fundraising goal been set? Is there a possibility the Hatch can raise \$150,000 and the CPC can fund \$50,000?

D Copeland said in the past they have had wine and cheese parties, where they have received donations. He does have a list of people to approach for assistance. They can try to raise more funds elsewhere.

Amy Boyce has an idea for a beer tasting event from a local brewery.

T Russo asked how much has been raised since 2016.

D Copeland answered that they received \$11,495 over the past 4 years.

Tim commented that it does not seem the Hatch Mill group was serious enough about pursuing additional funds given the small amount that has been raised. Others concurred.

Mike Bilas asked if \$400,000 was an accurate amount that CPC has given to the Hatch already. Copeland said it was.

With the request of another \$200,000, that would be \$600,000 of taxpayers' money. Mike said that while he thinks the Hatch Mill project is a good project, it seems that 600K of taxpayers' money is too much especially since it is privately owned. Mike mentioned that in the close out report (2016) from the earlier project funding, the Hatch Mill folks said that future work would be from fundraising. The dredging of the pond was mentioned in the report as a future need. Mike mentioned that he was concerned that 3-4 years from now, Hatch Mill would be coming back to CPC for more funding and that it makes more sense for them to pursue other funding including grants before asking the taxpayers for more money.

D Copeland said they struggled to find other grants for which they qualified, or that were not matching grants, leaving them still without the matching side. They now have a new board member experienced in grant writing that they hope can help.

Bert O'Donnell encouraged the Board to reread the 2016 Hatch Mill report, saying it was a great summary of the project. He also said the scenic vista has been altered dramatically by the phragmites. Dredging, hydro raking of the reed could restore function to the mill as well as preserve the view, which should be a great value to the Town. He also said grants should be out there to help fund restoration of the saw mill itself, although probably not for hydro raking.

Kerry Richardson asked what prompted the Historical Society to sell this property when it did. Cindy Castro said at the time the Historical Society needed to put their attention on a building they could use, the Marcia Thomas House at 65 Webster Street.

Attending supporting neighbors Susan and Mike Wolfe, Kathleen Carr, and Susan Caron all spoke in behalf of the Hatch Mill. They expressed their gratitude to all the effort put into the restoration, saying it surpassed all expectations. Neighbors have contributed carpentry at times and helped out with mortgage payments at other times, they are active supporters. The project is not a financial obligation for the Town, but does create opportunities for recreation, historic education, business modeling, as well as vistas. To have come this far and not bring it to completion would be sad. More time untreated will cause further costs to incur, as the phragmites have increased tremendously over the past ten years.

Kevin Cantwell asked who are the current members of the Hatch Board if they have changed as previously stated at the last meeting.

D Copeland listed them as: Barry Cornwell, Steve DeCastro, Cindy Castro, Jack Clancy, Dean Copeland, Bill Powell, Mark Huber, and Joe Champlain.

Kevin said that many of the current Board members were on the Board when they told CPC they would not be returning for funds.

CPC Board members asked to see a fundraising plan created. Tim Russo said the Hatch has not shown to be serious on this aspect. Other avenues need to be explored. Possibly they would gather more support next fall, after securing additional financial help. Bert O'Donnell asked if January was acceptable for them to come back with a plan, but Kevin Cantwell said that would be too late to get on the Warrant for April's Town Meeting. D Copeland would like to pursue one last minute funding option and come back at December's meeting before withdrawing application. Board members agreed that was acceptable.

**Mobi Mats:** Bert O'Donnell mentioned that the Conservation Commission would like the addition of plantings at the Mobi Mats' proposed areas of Beach St, Brighton St and Pearl St. He asked Cindy Castro if more money was needed for the plantings. Cindy Castro said it was not necessary, the request for funds is for Mats only.

**MOTION:** Tim Russo made a Motion to recommend that Town approve \$30,000 for additional Mobi Mats at Green Harbor and Rexhame Beaches. Mike Bilas seconded. Motion approved 7-0 by Roll Call Vote: Kerry Richardson – yes, Tim Russo – yes, Denis Kelleher – yes, Bert O'Donnell – yes, Michele Campion – yes, Mike Bilas – yes, Kevin Cantwell – yes.

**Senior Affordable Housing:** Kevin Cantwell spoke with Michael Maresco. Town Selectmen have decided to withdraw their application for this FY. They will possibly resubmit next Fall.

**Coast Guard Hill Playground:** Denis Kelleher was recently appointed as liaison between the Recreation Dept. and the CPC. Denis relayed that Craig Jameson is working on the project plan specifics and will present to the Board at next month's meeting.

**Housing Coordinator:** Kerry Richardson will be checking with Martine Anderson and Marguerite Pujalte to assess an accurate funding amount.

**Financials:** An updated Condition of Accounts and Expenditure Report was sent to Board members for review. No concerns this meeting.

**Minutes Review:** Kevin Cantwell asked to postpone approval of prior meeting minutes. MOTION: Kerry Richardson made a Motion to postpone review of October 14, 2020 Minutes until next meeting. Michele Campion seconded. Approved 7-0 by Roll Call Vote: Tim Russo – yes, Mike Bilas – yes, Bert O'Donnell – yes, Denis Kelleher – yes, Kerry Richardson – yes, Michele Campion – yes, Kevin Cantwell – yes.

**Next Meeting Date:** Tentatively scheduled for December 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** Mike Bilas made a Motion to end the meeting at 8:34 pm. Denis Kelleher seconded. Approved 7-0 by Roll Call Vote: Denis Kelleher - yes, Kerry Richardson - yes, Bert O'Donnell – yes, Michele Campion - yes, Tim Russo - yes, Mike Bilas - yes, Kevin Cantwell - yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Pomella  
CPC Administrative Assistant

Minutes Approved December 9, 2020