

# SEEKONK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

## Minutes 7-9-12

Present: John Alves, Willit Mason, Richard Wallace, Priscilla Dunn, Susan Waddington

Absent: Neal Abelson, Jim Tusino

Guests: Jan Parker, Chris DeFontes, Peter Fuller, Dan Horton

### PUBLIC HEARING

John Alves, chair, announced that Governor Patrick has signed the new CPA legislations which broadens the scope for projects relating to Recreation and provides a one-time transfer of \$25,000,000 into CPA coffers. Additional information is available through the web site [www.communitypreservation.org](http://www.communitypreservation.org).

He also welcomed Priscilla Dunn as a member of the committee.

He then announced the funds currently available in the Seekonk CPA accounts – these funds will be adjusted upward in the fall with additional monies from local taxes and the state distribution.

Open space:	27,500	
Historic preservation	1,000	
Affordable community housing		55,000
Unreserved balance	334,690.57	

John also reported on the status of passed applications:

Habitat for Humanity – Gude St. project. Habitat expects to close on the land in August, begin advertising for a family and start work in September.

Trails project – Preliminary work will be completed in the next few months.

APR project on South Wheaton Ave. – Closed on recently

Old Town Hall – ongoing.

There were no comments from the public, so the Public Hearing was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:12.

### REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:13.

Minutes of the May 21, 2012 meeting were approved as written with the additional note that subsequent to that meeting, chair Ron Blum announced his resignation effective July 1 to the Board of Selectmen with John Alves to serve as chair pending the July reorganization of the Committee.

The following officers were elected:

John Alves – Chair

Richard Wallace – Vice-chair

Susan Waddington – Clerk

The Committee still lacks appointed members from the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historical Commission and the Chair will try to secure these appointments by our next meeting.

We discussed the only current application – The Organization and Housing of Town Documents. This would cover the actual work to be done following the original project which assessed what needed to be done. The discussion was preceded by a tour of Town Hall basement and the vault to give the Committee a better understanding of the scope of the project. Committee members felt that the Town should bear part of the costs for this project since not all of the documents covered fall into the historic category. There was also concern about ongoing maintenance costs. Jan Parker said that she would attempt to have money for ongoing microfilming become a regular part of her budget. Committee members present are generally in favor of this project and at our next meeting we hope to finalize the numbers so this project can be placed on the fall Town Meeting warrant.

Richard has not come up with signage information. In the meantime, Susan will contact Rehoboth as she has seen signs on what she thinks is Rehoboth CPC property.

John reported that Joe Brennan, a contractor, had expected to be at the meeting (he was not). He is interested in working with the Luther's Corner Village buildings.

Susan asked John to contact the Housing Authority as that representative has missed a number of meetings and we need input from this committee and to have enough members attending meetings so that we can conduct our business.

Public comment: Ron Bennett wants to get the ball rolling on developing a Seekonk bike path. This is an item that was mentioned frequently in the Open Space Survey. He believes it could be done using a combination of Town, School and Water Board property. Richard mentioned that fund could possibly be obtained from the National Bike Trail organization. The new CPA regulations for Recreation projects

might also produce some funding. This also ties into the Seekonk Land Trust interests. The Committee would like to see follow up on this project.

Our next meeting will take place August 20 at 7:30 – room to be announced later. Please note that this is a new time!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan R. Waddington, Clerk