

COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 19, 2019

- Present:** Anthony Suffriti - Chair
Dino Mercadante – Vice Chair
George Bitzas
Robert Magovern
- Absent:** Gina Letellier
- Also Present:** Councilors Cavallo, Mineo, Rossi and Sandlin, Mayor Sapelli, Solicitor Buoniconti, Henry Kozloski, Jen Bonfiglio and Chris Sparks
- Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chair Suffriti at 6:23pm in the Teachers' Café in the Agawam Junior Street, Agawam

AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes dated December 17, 2018

Motion to approve were moved by Councilor Mercadante and seconded by Councilor Magovern.

The vote was **4 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Letellier) approving the minutes.

2. TR-2019-8 - A Resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and authorizing the expenditure of Community Preservation funds for the replacement of bleachers on town owned land (CPA)

There was a small discussion with Parks and Recreation Director, Chris Sparks, who explained the need to replace the bleachers noting the replacements would be portable.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council was moved by Councilor Mercadante and seconded by Councilor Magovern.

The vote was **4 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Letellier)

3. TR-2019-9 - A Resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and authorizing the expenditure of Community Preservation funds for the rehabilitation of Borgatti Field Playscape (CPA)

This is to be ADA compliant with poured playscape and rubber in the playground. The CPA originally appropriated \$20,000 for the playscape years ago. Chris was able to supplement the CPA appropriation with donations and unused money in other accounts.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council was moved by Councilor Magovern and seconded by Councilor Mercadante.

The vote was **4 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Letellier)

4. TR-2019-10 - A Resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and authorizing the expenditure of Community Preservation funds for the rehabilitation of Maynard Street (CPA)

This is to make it ADA compliant. Chris Sparks also supplemented CPA funds with money from the gift account.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council was moved by Councilor Bitzas and seconded by Councilor Mercadante.

The vote was **4 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Letellier)

5. TR-2019-11 - A Resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and authorizing the expenditure of Community Preservation funds for the replacement of benches on town owned land (CPA)

The benches at School Street Park are in need of replacement due to the deterioration of the original ones which were made of wood. Chris again found funds to help offset the money CPA was appropriating.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council was moved by Councilor Bitzas and seconded by Councilor Mercadante.

The vote was **4 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Letellier)

6. TR-2019-12 - A Resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and authorizing the expenditure of Community Preservation funds for the completion of a Master Plan for Tuckahoe Turf Farm (CPA)

Jen Bonfiglio explained the process of how they choose the company for making the Master Plan and in the end chose the cheapest company. The request is for \$36,000 and \$21,000 is needed for the chosen company. They may find issues but if there is money left over, it will be returned to CPA. Councilor Sandlin stated this was a long time coming. She thanked the Mayor for having a game plan and this appropriation will be a great first step in the process. Councilor Bitzas is happy to support all of these appropriations from CPA however after the most recent town study; it was shown that the people want to update Valley Brook Park in Feeding Hills. Council President Johnson reminded the Council that this item was about Tuckahoe Turf Farm – not other parks or areas. Councilor Magovern stated he was also in favor of this as Tuckahoe is the single largest undeveloped property in Agawam and will be a jewel for the town. Councilor Mineo also thought it was a great idea and is happy to support this. Councilor Bitzas again stated it was a great idea, a great investment but reminded everyone of the need to do something at Valley Brook. Council President Johnson felt compelled to say that this was again another example of the excellent communication between Mayor Sapelli and the Council. During the Agenda Reviews, there were many conversations between the Mayor and Council President and Vice President regarding the future of Tuckahoe. He thanked the Mayor for pushing to get it this far.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council was moved by Councilor Magovern and seconded by Councilor Mercadante.

The vote was **4 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Letellier)

7. TR-2019-13 - A Resolution authorizing the reservation of surplus funds from the Community Preservation Fund (CPA)

This is done on an annual basis. Jen Bonfiglio explained the reason for the increase into the accounts. It was requested that Jen Bonfiglio send updates related to the current CPA Fund balance breakdown.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council was moved by Councilor Mercadante and seconded by Councilor Bitzas.

The vote was **4 YES, 0 NO, 1 ABSENT** (Councilor Letellier)

8. Any other business that may legally come before the Committee.

None.

9. Adjournment.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Suffriti, Chair
Community Relations Sub-Committee