

Town of Agawam
Community Preservation Committee

Committee Minutes
November 26, 2007

Members Present: Henry Kozloski; Chair, Vi Baldwin, Louis Russo, Ray Moreau, Tom Tierney, Richard Maggi, Dick Bennett, Corinne Wingard

Others Present: Jennifer Bonfiglio; Secretary, Chris Sparks; Director of Parks and Recreation

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Kozloski.

1. *Motion to table minutes by Louis Russo, 2nd by Tom Tierney. Vote: Unanimous*

2. *Application for Funding: Elementary School Playgrounds \$50,000; submitted by Town of Agawam School Department and Department of Park & Recreation*
 - Chris Sparks, Louis Russo and Henry Kozloski met with Dr. Mary Czakowski and elementary school principals.
 - Ideal installation would be on April vacation.
 - In addition to the playground equipment installed, Chris would like to add a stenciled US map and a four (4) square at each school's black top.
 - Chariman Kozloski and Chris Sparks suggested also making Phelps School handicap accessible and adding a ramp to the playground at Granger School.
 - Chris added that the new equipment would be purchased through a landscape company that has a state contract. Total cost is \$47,000. Chris is asking for \$50,000 to cover contingencies. He would also like to add handicapped accessible equipment with additional funds.
 - Tom Tierney would like to ensure it is school and recreation compliant. Discussion continues regarding ensuring playgrounds are ADA compliant.
 - Chariman Kozloski suggests adding additional handicapped unit at each school at an additional cost.
 - Louis Russo questions if there are additional opportunities for handicapped equipment. Louis questions if we can hold a special meeting after a legal opinion and ADA compliance determination is met.
 - Richard Maggi suggests appropriation of money contingent on ADA compliance and legal opinion.
 - Louis Russo motions to suspend rules to allow a vote, Tom Tierney seconds. Vote: unanimous.
 - Louis Russo motions to accept the proposal of \$50,000 contingent on ADA compliance, a legal opinion, and the addition of two pieces of handicapped accessible equipment at each school. Rich Maggi seconds. Discussion: Henry suggests increasing amount approved. Chris asks not place a dollar amount. Louis amends original motion to accept the proposal of \$60,000 contingent on ADA compliance, a legal opinion, and the addition of two pieces of handicapped accessible equipment at each school. Richard seconds. Vote: Unanimous.
 - Mrs. Howard from Clark School adds that Chris has helped. Mr. Farrell adds that all equipment at Phelps is handicapped accessible. Henry commends the Clark Student Council for triggering the funding. Henry also adds that he wants all the playgrounds accessible to the public.

- Dr. Czakowski thanks Chris, Henry, Louis, and the principals. This project would typically take 2-3 years if funded through the school department. She also thanks the Committee and concurs to do it right the first time to ensure all required guidelines are met.
3. *Application for Funding: Meadowbrook/Valleybrook Master Plan \$12,000; submitted by the Town of Agawam Park and Recreation Department*
- Chairman Kozloski advised that a legal opinion has not been received yet.
 - Chris Sparks advises that Berkshire Design came in as low bidders. Richard Maggi asks why the difference in cost of bidders. Chris indicated that Weston Sampson usually runs high and Berkshire has a good relationship with the Town, having designed School Street Park.
 - Tom Tierney asks what additional funding will be needed after the Master Plan is complete. Chris advised that construction drawings and bid documents will need to be completed. Berkshire design will work with the neighbors via a public meeting to determine their needs and wants.
 - Corinne Wingard asks why Berkshire would not involve neighbors before the plan is done. Tom explains that the experts will come in and present the best scenarios to the neighbors, which can then be modified.
 - Richard Maggi asked if Chris has any idea of an actual cost of the projects. Chris is unsure, although he plans to also apply for 60% reimbursement through the Urban Self Help Grant. Dick Bennett asks if the neighbors of Valley Brook turn down the project is there an alternate site in Feeding Hills. Chris and Henry advise there is not much land in Feeding Hills.
 - Richard Maggi asked if it makes sense to put a park within one mile from the School Street Park. Chris advised that neighborhood and regional parks differ greatly. Neighborhood parks are developed partially and will be used by the neighborhood children.
 - Tom Tierney refers to the Open Space Plan's objectives and goals which refer to the needs and wishes of the town.
 - Ray Moreau refers to the map of the area and states there will be three entry points. He asks how many kids are in the area. Henry has the information and will supply to the committee.
 - Richard Maggi feels there is a greater need in Feeding Hills.
 - Corinne Wingard suggests actively seeking other sites in Feeding Hills to purchase rather than just Town owned sites.
 - Chris Sparks believes Valley Brook will have passive recreation, a playscape, basketball, nature areas, and picnic areas.
 - Motion to approve the request for a master plan in the amount of \$12,000 by Louis Russo. Seconded by Vi Baldwin. Vote: Unanimous.
4. *CPA Application revisions*
- Motion to table agenda item "CPA Application Revisions" by Ray. Second by Rich Maggi, vote: unanimous.
5. *Dick Bennett suggests no talking over each other during a meeting. All questions should be directed through the chair and the tables should be set up as a horse shoe so everyone can see each other. The committee as a whole agrees.*
6. *Motion to adjourn at 8:30 by Richard Maggi, 2nd by Dick Bennett, Vote: Unanimous.*