

## **Pelham Community Preservation Committee**

Minutes of the meeting on May 26, 2016

Location: Pelham Library

Members present: Dana MacDonald, Eric Castenson, Jim Lumley, Tom Fanning, Abbie Jenks

Public in attendance: 10 Pelham residents

Call to order by Chairman Dana at 7:03 pm

### Agenda

#### Use of CPA Money for Removal of Trees in the Community Hall Envelope

Recommended amount: \$3500

Linda Hanscomb: Three maples over the building cause mold and mildew inside and out. Leaves collect in the gutter, a branch fell and penetrated the roof. The Town paid to fix the roof.

This work would eliminate those problems to a great extent.

No further discussion on this issue.

#### The Buffam Brook Community Forest

Kat Deely from the Kestrel Trust gave an over view of the Community Forest program.

- U.S. Forest Service provides 50% of cost of acquisition and due diligence.
- Town of Pelham will own and manage the Forest
- Kestrel Trust will hold the Conservation Restriction
- Objectives
  - Public access/recreation
  - Sustainable forest management
  - Natural resource protection
  - Education: place-based learning

Comments by Chairman MacDonald:

- Landowners are selling below current market rates, saving \$136,750
- Pelham CPC funds for this are \$100k, but remember the State puts in half of that

Questions from the public:

Is this area still open to hunting. Dana: Yes.

Can we influence how the forestry is actually carried out; Will there be public input into the forestry plan? Dana: Yes, we definitely have a say in the forestry practices.

Tom - Recreation: Maintenance and expansion of trails, creation of trail maps to publicize this and other trails in town? How do folks feel about that.

Peter Hepler: Be careful here. There are professional dog-walkers who love to bring their dogs to areas like this. Don't spread the word.

Kat Deely: There is a dog-walker in Northampton who bought land and is creating a private dog-walking park. Also, residents can have a positive impact by reminding dog-walkers, ATV operators, etc., when they are violating the regulations.

Dana: This project will be on the ballot for the Spring Town Meeting on June 20, at the old Meetinghouse. This article requires a 2/3 in favor to pass.

Are there absentee ballots available ? Dana – Ask Kathy

Dana: The town will lose about \$2500 in tax revenues per year if this project goes through.

How much of the land is buildable? Dana: 2 parcels are not buildable, 2 parcels could be buildable if the lots were reconfigured in the right way.

Will there be funds needed for ongoing maintenance of the Forest?

Dana: The initial management are stewardship fees are paid for, \$63,000. Beyond that, we expect the logging revenues to cover any other maintenance costs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

-Tom Fanning