

Town of Agawam Community Preservation Committee
Minutes of CPA Zoom Meeting
July 27, 2020

Members Present: Henry Kozloski, Rich Maggi, Violet Baldwin, Ray Moreau, Vin Ronghi, David Cecchi
Others Present: Jennifer Bonfiglio; CPA Administrator

Zoom Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairman Kozloski

1. Jennifer Bonfiglio confirms members are present and can hear. She explains this Open Meeting of the Community Preservation Act Committee is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth given the coronavirus outbreak. The Order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. Jennifer goes on to state ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law, although this meeting will feature public comment. Even if members of the public do not provide comment, participants are advised that people may be listening who do not provide comment, and those persons are not required to identify themselves. For this meeting, the Community Preservation Act Committee is convening via Zoom as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join. This meeting will also be recorded and some attendees are participating by either video or audio conference. Accordingly, please be aware that other folks may be able to see you, and that take care not to "screen share" your computer. Anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording. Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking. Jennifer then explains the ground rules of the meeting before handing over the meeting agenda to Chair Kozloski
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Member Ronghi made a motion to accept the March 4, 2020 meeting minutes as corrected. Second by Member Maggi. All in favor. Member Cecchi abstains. Member Maggi motions to accept the meeting minutes of June 3, 2020. Second by member Morea. All in favor. Member Baldwin abstains.
3. CPA Balances & Project Updates: Jennifer Bonfiglio provides an update on all outstanding projects and current fund balances.

\$79,900.46	Reserve for Open Space
\$630,598.16	Reserve for Historic
\$873,892.75	Reserve for Community Housing
\$394,559.01	Budgeted Reserve
<u>\$2,311,538.81</u>	Unreserved fund balance
\$4,290,489.19	

4. **Application for funding- Borgatti Youth Softball-** Chris Sparks, Park & Recreation Director presented the application requesting \$14,720.00 in CPA funds for the renovation of Borgatti Field for youth softball. The purpose of the project is to create a youth softball complex by turning the existing two adult softball fields into youth fields, installing a fence at the 200' from home plate, removing the existing outfield fences, reconstructing the existing infields to Little League softball regulations and building a third youth softball field.

The need occurs when the little league and softball lost the use of Sacred Heart fields. This past spring the Town was burdened with absorbing the responsibility of providing fields to these teams. The men's softball program has had reduced enrollment and now has 4 teams. Park and Rec can now accommodate their needs at Shea Field rather than Borgatti a few nights a week. This will allow Borgatti to be used entirely as a youth

complex. Keeping the men's field at Borgatti would not allow a third field to be added. Chris explains the design concept, configuration and provides a map. Budget is provided which includes a request of \$14,720 from CPA, a Little League contribution of \$5,000 and \$5,000 contribution from the Park & recreation gift account. Any overages would be funded by Park & rec. or Little League.

Jennifer calls on members with questions.

Member Baldwin approves proposal and confirms Park & Rec is reducing the two footprints of the old field to accommodate a third. She also ask if benches will be added. Chris explains benches exist for the public although player's benches will be added as included in the CPA application. Both field already have new benches and there is one extra at Memorial Field that can be added.

Chair Kozloski is concerned mens softball's needs are not being considered. Chris states he will still provide a field to men's softball and will not schedule any other games at Shea while men's softball is playing for safety reasons.

Member Moreau asks if an outfield fence would be added for men. Chris states No. Member Moreau also asks the height of youth fence. Chris states 4'. Chris reviews the configuration of all the new fences at Borgatti.

Member Ronghi asks about the orange PVC pipe at Borgatti. Chris states it will be removed and added to the new fences. Member Ronghi asks about concessions. Chris states concessions will be managed by little league as they do at Memorial Field. Currently the concession is not being used. Having a youth complex will increase usage of the building.

Member Ronghi agrees with Chris that men's softball number are declining. He is in favor of the project because there is a benefit to the Agawam little league and Chris is providing an alternate site for men's softball./ suggest increasing funding

Chair Kozloski opens the meeting to the public.

Aldo Mancini, 482 South Westfield Street, provide a background on the donations provided by Men's softball to the amenities at Borgatti. He states they assisted with install and donations for the irrigation, obtained CPA funding in approx.. \$25,000 in addition to \$30,000 donation from men's softball, removed telephone poles from parking lot, provided labor in kind. Aldo feels Shea will not work for the men and is opposed to moving the softball program. The abutting house is too close. He states it is wrong that men's softball invested so much into Borgatti and is now being moved and they want a comparable location.

Member Maggi states in response to Aldo, he believes accommodations can be made in Town. Chris suggests Shea Field is the only field that can safely accommodate the men.

Member Baldwin asks if all teams in the mens league are residents of Agawam. Chris states it is not 100% Agawam resident. Possibly 50%. Also suggest the teammates either work, live or previously lived in Agawam. She also asks if Borgatti is the only option for the youth. Chris states they were spread out around time last year. There is no other location for a multi field complex.

Chair Kozloski feels thee Town should look for a site where a new field for the men can be built. Chris states he has a field nowhere the men can play but construction anew field will be very expensive and cannot be done at this time.

Chair Kozloski also asks where this project is in the recreation plan. Chris states it is in the plan and the plan is on the Town website. Jennifer provides a link.

Member Ronghi states he was not aware of how much time and funding the men's softball put into Borgatti. He supports little league softball but is concerned with displacing the men.

Member Maggi feels Aldo's comments are worth considering but an inexpensive solution is being offered. He feels we have to accept what Mr. Sparks is stating concerning the needs of the Town and suggests moving the questions.

Member Maggi motions to approve the request for funding. Second by Member Baldwin. Roll call called. All in favor.

3. Motion to adjourn at 6:08 by Member Baldwin. Second by Member Ronghi. All in favor. Chairman Kozloski closed the meeting.