

CPC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 25, 2015 7pm
Board of Selectman Hearing Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Karen Connolly, Adam Conrad, Harvey Gates, William Limbacher, Joshua McKain, Chris Roberts, Frank Snow

Also in Attendance: Robert McCarry, Maura Glancy, Maddie Vachon, Kathleen Curran, Arthur Beal, Doug Smith, Robin Glazier, Don Burris, Janet Cornacchio, Mark Coughlin and other interested parties

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Acceptance of Agenda – The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to accept the agenda as presented

SCHEDULED HEARINGS FOR THIS MEETING:

Scituate Recreation Commission/Sailing Fleet Restoration Application –Maura Glancy (co-director), Maddie Vachon (co-director) - Application for \$30,712 from the Recreation Commission to restore the aging Cape Cod Mercury sailing fleet used in the “Learn to Sail” program, which has been in place for 40 years.

Ms. Glancy explained that this is the first time the Recreation Commission has come before the CPC for one of their programs. The CPC has funded playgrounds and they view the Harbor as a playground that is on the water. Because the Town’s sailing program represents both a historic and recreational activity it meets CPC requirements.

Ms. Vachon said that Scituate has always been a sailing town, beginning with the first settlers who sailed into the Harbor in 1632. The history of the sailing program, which started in 1962, was presented to the Committee. Since 2006 the program has grown from 30 sailors to 350-400 sailors taking classes. (*In comparison, the Yacht Club has 70-110 sailors and the Boat Club has 40-50 sailors in their programs each summer*). The boats are used extensively: the sailing program offers three classes a day, four days a week, for 8 weeks in the summer. The program ensures that all ages and abilities have access to learning skills on the water. The whole community can benefit from the restoration of this fleet.

Ms. Vachon added that the youngest Mercury is 46 years old. They need to refurbish the Mercury’s, still considered the best boat to teach beginners, to keep the program safe and successful. Their fleet has seven boats that are good enough to be refurbished. One of these boats was previously refurbished by Scituate Boat Works, who donated their services and provided the estimate for the six remaining boats. The Committee was shown before and after photos of the boat. Ms. Glancy said that restoration will ensure the fleet will be “as new” offering many more years of service. The costs to refurbish are much less than the \$80,000 they would need to replace the fleet.

When asked, Ms. Glancy said that the average age for the program is 9 to 16 years. Chris Roberts, the CPC Recreation Liaison, pointed out that this program is open to all and not dependent on membership and that scholarships are available to those who cannot afford the fee.

The Committee discussed the “playground on the water” concept with some members questioning whether CPA was strictly land based. Mr. Roberts added that the application calls for refurbishing something that is both recreational and historical. Ms. Connolly said that she called the CPA Coalition and was told that funds were for land based projects, but they added that they are not lawyers and were not giving legal advice; it would be up to the town to interpret. The Committee discussed examples of other recreational projects that have been funded in town. It was suggested that it might have been an oversight by the State to not include water in the language of the Act; also it doesn’t say that you cannot include waterways. Ms. Glancy added that

Yarmouth has a similar project and it might be a matter of time before other coastal towns have projects that forge a broader definition beyond land use.

Archives/Civil War Book and Restoration of Selectmen's Records Projects – Kathleen Curran (appearing on behalf of Elizabeth Foster, Town Archives) – Application for \$10,963 from Town Archives to complete a Civil War book on Scituate's involvement in the War of Rebellion and to complete the restoration of the five remaining books of Selectmen's minutes, which are at risk of deteriorating. These minutes are classified for permanent retention by the Secretary of State and need to be kept in a bound volume.

Ms. Curran thanked the Committee for all of the projects that Archives has been able to complete. Last year alone, they completed scanning and microfilming the Assessor's books from 1950-1992, which were taking up a lot of space. (*A complete list of CPC funded projects that Archives has done since 2007 to preserve the town's history can be viewed at www.scituatecpc.org.*) These records are invaluable assets for the town for research purposes and to keep records up to date. There is a need for the Selectmen's records to be bound.

Ms. Curran explained that the Civil War book has been started and there is a mockup up from Converpage. All of the research to date has been done by volunteers; Lynn Sheridan was credited with much of the work. The book will include letters from soldiers, enlistment lists, etc. There will be no profit made from the book. Converpage will publish 20 copies to given to schools, the library and archives, and the Historical Society. After that, Converpage will have publishing rights to publish the book for sale.

The Committee confirmed that the book will include Scituate residents' history with the Civil War. Ms. Curran said the book will be similar to the one on WWII that the Preservation of Scituate Heritage (POSH).

Historic Commission/Tercentenary Markers Project – Doug Smith, Arthur Beal – Application for \$11,400 from the Historical Commission (HC) to renovate the markers erected in 1930 by the state Tercentenary Commission identifying the locations of the structures and events there were deemed important on the 300th anniversary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and viewed as a reflection of Scituate's long history.

Mr. Smith reviewed the background and history of the signs. In 1930, the Massachusetts Department of Public Works was authorized to "erect suitable signs and markers...indicating the ancient ways of Puritan times and structures or places relating to or associated with the early settlements" across the state. The placement of the signs and markers were intended to be "permanent monuments" of "the heroism, of the romance and of the tragedies, and of the unfaltering faith of the ancestors of our Commonwealth". Scituate had nine signs placed in Town and, since 1930, have had virtually no maintenance.

Mr. Smith explained that the project began when the HC was approached by the residents of Third Cliff to restore one in their area. The HC did not have the funds for this and requested that the neighbors raise the money needed for them to start. The sign was taken down and sand blasted to remove the rust. Photos of the sign before and after the process were passed to the committee for review.

Mr. Smith gave highlights on the condition and location of all the signs, including the Early Boundary Line, Old Oaken Bucket, Williams-Barker House, Third Cliff, Stockbridge Mansion, Gannett's Corner, Satuit Brook, and Kent Street. All the signs have been located except the North River sign which may have been lost during the rebuilding of the Route 3A Bridge. They are working with Marshfield to have a new one made. Mr. Smith added that if the signs are restored, remounted and secured to the poles, they should last another 85 years.

Mr. Beal explained that he has been an art conservator for over 45 years and his specialty is in sculpture conservation, including outdoor sculpture. He discussed the varying conditions of the signs and posts, and noted that restoring and preserving the signs is a conservation challenge. He is recommending a gentle process called dustless glass bead blasting to remove the old paint and corrosion without losing the detail; this can be done locally by a company in Cohasset. Both sides of the signs will need to be painted; Mr. Beal

recommends using the same type of epoxy paint that was used on the North Scituate Train Canopy. He added that this paint is very expensive but has a 30 year warranty.

Further discussion involved whether or not a contingency fund for future maintenance should be included, or if it is the town's responsibility to maintain the signs. The Committee asked what the wording on the top of the sign read: "By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty."

Bailey- Ellis House Dining Room Beam Preservation Project – Janet Cornacchio, Robin Glazier, Don Burris, Mark Coughlin – Application for \$8,300 from the Scituate Arts Association (SAA) for 50% of the funding needed for emergency repairs of a structural support beam and plaster damage in the Bailey-Ellis House dining room. The SAA will fund the other 50% of the project. *(This application is an addendum to the Roof & Site Drainage Improvement Project which is in process.)*

Architect Mark Coughlin has been working with the SAA on the roof renovation project. He explained that the weakening and sagging of a structural support beam and plaster damage in the dining room is a result of water infiltration from the compromised building envelope *(being addressed by the Roof & Site Damage project)*. They believe that historically the beam supported a structural wall that was removed during some renovations in the past and due to time and water damage has begun to sag. This has also resulted in dry rot. Mr. Coughlin explained details of the work needed to support the beam in the short term and to fix the structure and preserve the character of the house. They have received two estimates.

The project will be done in two phases. Ms. Cornacchio explained that the SAA designed a grant application in two parts: one for the beam replacement and one for the plastering. If they self-fund they will have more flexibility and potentially lower costs working with local people, rather than going out to bid. Frank Snow confirmed that he has looked at the damage and said that he agrees the work needs to be done. There was additional discussion regarding maintenance of the house vs. restoration. It was generally agreed that, due to the age of the house, it should be considered restoration.

Ms. Cornacchio offered an update on the Roof & Site Drainage Improvement Project, which was approved in 2014, and said that it would go out to public bid in March. She is concerned that costs have gone up since it was approved, such as increases in prevailing wages, and that the \$79,000 may not be enough. Ms. Connolly suggested that, since it is out of their hands now, it may have to be voted on at a special Town Meeting in the fall. If there is no fall meeting, they could put in another application to cover the additional costs.

Old Business

- Ms. Connolly asked if any of the applicants should be called back to the meeting on March 2 for additional questions from the Committee. There was a discussion about the North Scituate Beach Nourishment project and the need for Kevin Cafferty to come back to address additional questions and concerns regarding his \$200,000 funding request for an engineering study and permitting. Mr. Snow explained that the money is not just for the design and permitting, but to secure the matching funds from the state. The Committee discussed whether or not this is a recreational project, or more of a foreshore protection project to protect the sea wall. It was suggested that this is a grey area, like the sidewalk vs. path discussion. Ms. Connolly said that she believes the Jenkins School/Vinal Ave Path applicants may want to come back.

New Business

- The Committee agreed to vote on the 2015 project applications after the hearings on Monday, March 2nd. There was a discussion on where to meet because the parking at the GAR is still problematic due to the snow. It was agreed to try to book the Hearing Room for the meeting. The applicants will be informed about the vote date.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:48 – all in favor.

Submitted by: Mary Sprague, Administrative Assistant