

Stockbridge Community Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes
19 January 2023
Stockbridge Town Hall, 4:00pm

Present: Sally Underwood-Miller [presiding], Jay Bikofsky, Linda Jackson, Tom Stokes, Carole Owens, Patrick White, Gary Pitney, Anne Rabinowitz, Ericka Oleson

Also present: Arthur Dutil, Ron Brouker, Kevin Foran, India Spartz, Lis Wheeler, Pat Flinn, Margaret Cherin, Nancy Mills, Robert Harrison, Peter Strauss, Kate Fletcher, Ranne Warner, Lis Wheeler, Andrea Lindsay, June Wolfe, Jane Ralph, Teresa O'Brient

Arthur Dutil and Ron Brouker represented the Friends of Gould Meadows. This year they are asking for a total of \$11916.25. The group has been able to augment their funds with a Forest Stewardship grant along with the many hours of volunteer labor. This year's work will include the grinding of stumps leftover from the tree removal. The plan is to plant native species of wildflowers near the space near the parking lot using volunteer labor (\$2500). In addition they are proposing 2 more park benches (\$500). There are DCR funds to help defray the cost of tree planting.

Ron Brouker described work to be done at the Foot Bird Sanctuary. In 1969 Mrs. Foot left the property (27 acres) adjacent to the Transfer Station with specific instructions that it be preserved as a bird sanctuary. The Highway Department has disposed of the shed and the debris, but there is still a slab that must be removed. Once that is done, the proposal is to plant fruit and/or flowering trees. There will need to be some preparation of the soils prior to planting. There are plans to create some trails and identify what may be seen on the property. (\$5200)

Kevin Foran represented the Stockbridge Bowl Association's interests in Bullard Woods. (\$11500) They have 2 projects – first they want to undertake removal of invasive plants – barberry, kiwi and buckthorn, among others. Jess Toro of Native Habitat Restoration has been working on this. She was able to secure a grant to pay for the work. About ½ of the 55 acre property is woodland.

Bullard Woods is frequented by both locals and visitors. There are several old growth trees of note that the SBA would like to highlight by creating signage describing the trees, how they function in the environment, and their value as carbon banks. Their plan is to replace the kiosk, and include maps. (\$5000)

India Spartz, Curator of the Stockbridge Library and Archives, presented 2 projects for this year. 1) The preservation of a daguerreotype photos by Anson Clark, one of the earliest images of this area. Some are broken and worn. They also plan to digitize master reels of microfilm that are currently in storage. The subject matter is from the Berkshire News around 1890 and concerns the Berkshire Playhouse and the Congregational Church (\$6500).

Margaret Cherin represented Chesterwood. Their plans are for the restoration of the brick garden wall. It needs to be rebuilt with new stucco, a new cap, etc. The plantings will be removed and replaced. (\$20000) The National Trust will provide matching funds.

Architect Robert Harrison represented the Berkshire Theatre Festival. They plan extensive interior and exterior renovations in time for the 100th anniversary in 2028. Their immediate need \$100000 +/- for the restoration of the roof. Their plan is to winterize the building, as well.

Pat Flinn represented Laurel Hill Association. The Mary Flynn Trail was constructed over the old trolley bed. The trail was reconstructed about 20 years ago. The sluiceways underneath have failed, leading to serious deterioration of the trail. It will have to be closed during the construction. The trail is handicapped accessible, so there may be AARP funding.

Ranne Warner presented projects for Construct and the Housing Trust. Pine Woods is suffering from structural failure. The boilers need to be replaced, along with more work on the driveway and additional capital improvements, including siding. The cost will be close to \$1000000. They are asking for a 15-year bond, which will cost around \$50000/year. Members had some concerns regarding the structure and oversight of this money. The Town has ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds that may also be available. Committee members unanimously expressed their support for affordable/"workforce" housing. Stockbridge has lost a majority of its year-round housing that is affordable for young families and first-time home buyers. This trend cannot continue if we are to remain a viable community. We cannot become a bedroom community and remain functional. Members wanted clarification on who would oversee the funding and suggested that Construct, Pine Woods and Stockbridge Housing Authority should apply under their own auspices. Grants for private homeowners who meet certain financial criteria might apply for ARPA funding.

Teresa O'Brient represented the Waldorf High School. They are in negotiations with the Congregation Church and the Town to purchase the Old Town Hall and convert it into a high school. The Waldorf brand is a "coveted resource" and can draw families to a Town. Architect Pam Sandler and Dana Bixby have been working on plans to not only restore the building using historically correct renovations, but also to recreate a community space in the space that was once used for Town Meetings. This plan is contingent upon a Purchase & Sale agreement being worked out. They have raised approximately \$3000000 so far. Part of the plan will include public access to parts of the building, such as the jail which dates to 1839. It is their hope to move in in around 2.5 years.

Jay Bikofsky made a motion to adjourn. Gary Pitney seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Underwood-Miller, Chair