

Concerning the timing, the PQ courts will be done this Spring (2016) and the Winn Brook courts will be done in the Spring 2017. Member Helgen raised the topic of non-resident groups using the courts (camps, private schools, etc.) and paying appropriate usage/rental fees to help recover costs of maintaining the courts. Mr. Ferrante stated that he voted no on this project, until more data is collected. Mr. Carman stated that the CPC voted to recommend favorable action on this proposal by a vote of 5 to 3:

Selectman Williams, BOS liaison to the CPC, approached the table to speak on this topic. He explained why he voted yes on this project and noted that there is a Tennis Court Working Group being formed. Mr. Carman added that the high school tennis courts will be unusable during the (potential) reconstruction period. Member Schreiber spoke to the complexity of the usage issue. Once the dilapidated courts are repaired, more people will be using them. Something similar happened with the Underwood Pool, she explained: fewer people used the old pool, while the new pool was very well used. Member McLaughlin suggested waiting until more is known, given that Town Meeting won't be voting on this until May.

The WC continued discussing issues relating to this project. Chair Libenson took a straw poll and it was determined that the WC would continue to consider this item at its next meeting, currently scheduled for March 23.

2. Construction of Intergenerational Walking Path at Clay Pit Pond \$228,350

Ms. Mary Trudeau, Conservation Agent, explained the impetus of this project and noted that the pond was studied by the BETA group (an architectural landscaping firm). The existing footpath is a very worn trail. She stated that the path is used by many people and by many groups across town. She discussed the size of the proposed path as well as the permeable material that will be used. The new walking path will be three-season and will be more durable than what is there now. The new material will help with drainage issues. She then went on to discuss the placement of various memorials and lighting fixtures - all of which will be fundraised for.

BOS Chair Baghdady asked about ownership of the land with concern to maintenance. He also asked if the School Committee (SC) was involved in the planning process. Ms. Trudeau stated that the SC has been involved. She then discussed brush clearing. She expressed hope that the DPW would help with maintenance and noted that the School Department maintains the section of the path closest to the school.

Member Helgen raised the issue of accessibility for wheel chairs, bikes, strollers, etc. Ms. Trudeau replied that there is full accessibility.

Member Fallon moved: Favorable action on the Intergenerational Walking Path.
The motion passed unanimously.

3. Town Hall Exterior Railings Improvements \$75,000

Mr. Gerry Boyle, Director of Facilities, explained that the Town Hall iron railings need replacing. He noted where the railings are located and the nature of the work that will be done. BOS Chair Baghdady added that the Board recently accepted a citizen's donation for the purpose of landscaping the Town Hall area. The WC briefly discussed this project.

Member Fallon moved: Favorable action on the Town Hall railing project.
The motion passed unanimously.

4. Preserving Belmont's Original Vital Records \$80,000

Ms. Ellen Cushman, Town Clerk, explained that this is the next phase of digitizing the Town's vital records. ("Vital records" maintained by the Town include birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage certificates). There are many requests for these types of records. The preserving phase occurs after the digitizing phase. This amount (\$80K) will not preserve all the documents; the full project would cost \$760K. She then explained which records (1859 – 1930) would be preserved with the \$80K. In answer to a question, she explained why marriage certificates are complex and will not be included in this phase. The WC briefly discussed this project.

Member Helgen moved: Favorable action on Preserving the Vital Records.
The motion passed unanimously.

5. Digitizing Belmont's Town Meeting (TM) Records \$85,000

Ms. Ellen Cushman, Town Clerk, remained at the WC table and explained the digitizing of TM transcripts as well as the annual report. She explained the nature of the requests that come in daily concerning the bound documents. This project would make these documents much more accessible, once digitized. The WC briefly discussed this project.

Member McLaughlin moved: Favorable action on Digitizing TM Records.
The motion passed unanimously.

6. PQ Park Revitalization \$25,000

Ms. Julie Crockett, Chair of the PQ Park Revitalization Committee, explained the enhancements and safety upgrades that are being requested for the park. She provided some background information on the request, noting that it was originally a request to revamp the entire playground (\$225K). The \$25K is for Phase 1 and will fund a site survey and the landscape architectural design, while Phase 2 would deal with implementation of the design for the larger playground.

She then addressed the WC's questions concerning fundraising, maintenance, and space usage. Member Helgen asked about the \$225K for the implementation phase and noted that this amount seems low. Member Epstein asked about the ownership of playground equipment if the funds to buy it are privately donated. Mr. Kale responded that the

private group would transfer ownership to the town via the Selectmen.

The “*Friends of ...*” concept was briefly discussed. Member McLaughlin wondered if all the parks had advocacy groups. BOS Chair Baghdady noted that the funds will not be funneled to the citizens group as it is town money. The WC briefly discussed this project.

Member McVay moved: Favorable action on PQ Park Revitalization.
The motion passed unanimously.

Other Community Preservation Act Project Updates

Mr. Carman provided some information on past CPA projects – status updates, funding updates, final costs, completion dates, etc. He briefly reviewed the administration of the projects, TM’s role, and the 10% reserve. The *First Time Home Buyer* project was briefly discussed by the WC.

Update: WC Report Production Process

Member Gammill discussed this topic and took the WC through a template of the WC subcommittee report. He offered some suggestions for writing the report. Chair Libenson praised this format.

Updates: Board of Selectmen and Minuteman

Board of Selectmen: BOS Chair Baghdady reported that the BOS will host budget meetings with Department Heads on March 8 and 10 at 8:30 a.m. The WC is invited to attend the meetings.

Minuteman: Member McLaughlin reported that all 16 towns have voted affirmatively on the revised agreement. Six towns are leaving the district. He raised the issue of the DESE approval process and the debt. The question of the six schools and their debt obligation was raised.

Chair Libenson reviewed the upcoming WC meeting schedule.

Adjournment

Member McLaughlin moved to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Gibalerio
WC Recording Secretary