

Minutes West Tisbury CPC special meeting 10/15/2007

Approved October 24, 2007

Present: Sean Conley, Al DeVito, Caroline Flanders, Dale Julier, Bruce Keep; Nora Nevin (for absent Tony Nevin, Admin. Asst.) Absent: Lesley Eaton, Ginny Jones, Susan Phelps, Peter Rodegast, Also present: Glenn Hearn, WT Selectman

Caroline Flanders called the meeting to order at 5:34. The minutes of the October 10 meeting were deferred until October 24, 2007.

The purpose of this special meeting was to review and discuss the request submitted by the West Tisbury Board of Selectmen for \$50,000 for a warrant for the special town meeting on November 27, 2007 to dredge Mill Pond. Warrant submissions for the Nov. 27 meeting are due October 17.

Caroline reviewed the categories into which this request might qualify for CPA funding: Open Space, to preserve the pond ; Historic, in part, Bruce Keep added. She then read the list of the Town of West Tisbury CPA General Criteria/Decision Guidelines of Project Proposals. Responses to each of the criteria varied from *yes* to *no* to *not relevant* to *possible* to *don't know yet*. The strongest *yes* answer was for the criterion "strong community support" from the public plus Selectmen. *Yes* was also the strong endorsement on the criteria for Open Space Projects. It was noted that this application was the only one under the Open Space category so far received.

Committee Comments: Bruce asked Glenn Hearn why \$30,000 original request had jumped to \$50,000. Glenn said to cover permitting, that one contractor had estimated the cost of permitting at \$20,000 to \$29,000. Dale Julier asked where the rest of the \$50,000 would be needed. Glenn answered that these were ballpark figures as the contractor had not yet seen the project. Caroline remarked that as an open space project, this is visible and promises the public's pleasure as a result of dredging. No other Open Space project is on the horizon. All costs estimated appear to be speculative, that this is just the permitting and design phase. Sean Conley noted that of 34 checkpoints, this project scored 23 positive. However, the funding request is for this stage only, so the amount requested should be of concern. In general, he supports the request.

Dale asked: why the urgency? Why put it before all the other 11 other requests at this point? Why not put it on the table with the others? We should hear from the neighbors, although that could be a part of the next phase. She was also concerned about the cost and would like to see fund-raising efforts, as was done with the Lambert's Cove project, before supporting the request. Al DeVito echoed her, saying this was being pushed too rapidly, was unfair to other requests, that we should look at all proposals, not this one in isolation. He said also that the Capitol Improvement Planning committee does not have this project on its list to review. Also, the time line, starting to dredge three weeks after the Special Town Meeting, was unrealistic. He does not support the request.

Bruce asked what was to be done with 20,000 sq. ft. of excavated sludge; where it would be stored. Glenn said it would be reduced to 10,000 sq. ft. of rich material, water subtracted, which could be sold. He added that permitting could take up to a year, and that with no other project competing in the Open Space category, this project need not be seen in light of others. Caroline agreed on its uniqueness. Glenn added that the ConCom says it is a permissible project. Dale suggested that we'd get answers to our questions if we asked the Town to look at it and vote. Let them decide; then we would proceed. Caroline pointed out that a request amounts to an endorsement and asked if the Committee agreed to that. Bruce suggested we get an engineer's evaluation. Glenn said it was hard to get solid figures as it has to go out to bid. Fundraising cannot start until there is a figure for its goal.

Caroline raised the question of whether we are spending Town money, or spending money on Town-owned assets. It was agreed it was the latter.

Bruce MOVED that the CPA recommend up to \$50,000 on engineering for permitting. Al seconded. Caroline said she does not want to bypass the CIP process, given it is a by-law. She wants to see its review list. Bruce and Sean want less money proposed, proposed a feasibility study. Glenn said a feasibility study had already been done. Sean said there are several ways of approaching feasibility.

Caroline called the Question: the motion FAILED 3-2. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Nevin, Admin. Asst. *pro tem*