

STOCKBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, 27 February 2018
Town Offices Meeting Room, 7pm, Stockbridge, MA

Present: Ron Brouker [presiding], George Shippey, Joe DeGiorgis, Tom LaBelle, Louise Gachet, John Hart, Sally Underwood-Miller

George Shippey made a motion to approve minutes from Tuesday, 13 February 2018. Tom LaBelle seconded. John Hart abstained. Motion carried. 6-0-1

Commissioners discussed the Conservation Fund. This fund was raised through public donations as part of the Conservation Commission's efforts to purchase Gould Meadows in 1980. A balance of \$9,408.92 remained after that purchase and, with accumulated interest, the fund now stands at \$27,431.10. The Friends of Gould Meadows have undertaken the task of restoring the milk shed, improving trails and parking, and removing overgrown hedgerows, along with eliminating the pervasive invasive species. The project has received a grant to hire Native Habitat Restoration, a licensed herbicide applicator, to undertake the eradication of the dread Kiwi vine, buckthorn, bittersweet, barberry, and other invasive plant species that are prevalent in the meadow. Hundreds of hours of volunteer labor have already gone into the project, and much progress has been made already. The Community Preservation Committee has also recommended that the citizenry vote to allocate CPA funds toward this project. These monies could also be used for matching grant funds should state programs come available. Based on the progress having been made and in the hope of building on that progress, Tom LaBelle made a motion to update the Selectmen on the project and apprise them of the Commission's intention to follow up on the work done to date, using money from the Conservation Fund. This expenditure needs BOS approval to be spent, but as the original donors intended these funds to be used for the purchase of Gould Meadows, Commissioners are tasked with making sure the funds are used for that purpose or one of equal standing. Joe DeGiorgis seconded the motion. Unanimous. Ron will set a date to meet with the Selectmen.

There is concern regarding the runoff from the expanded Marian Fathers' parking lot. They have put down filings intended to be a pervious surface in the parking area that was dirt. Unfortunately, it is believed that they have compacted the filings making the surface impervious, instead. This particular area has produced some significant stormwater damage both toward Shamrock Street and also Kamposoa Bog in the past. This work may have ramifications under the Town's Stormwater Bylaw.

Tom LaBelle made a motion to adjourn the hearing at 9pm. George Shippey seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Underwood-Miller, Secretary/Member