

1 **Minutes of the Ashland Community Preservation Committee**
2 **Tuesday January 5, 2021**
3 **Zoom Online Meeting**

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5 In Attendance: Aaron Ladd, Gretchen Bravacos, Cathy Van Lancker, Joe Rubertone, Devin Cashman,
6 Donna Saul, Amy Sayed

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8 Mr. Ladd called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

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10 The Committee discussed its current membership while recognizing that two seats remained open. The
11 Committee agreed that it was not ready to alter the Committee's membership to accommodate the
12 request that it consider having a member from the Housing Trust be given a seat on the CPC. This
13 change would require a change in the charter at Town Meeting. Instead, the Town needs to work with
14 the Housing Authority to appoint a member as soon as possible. The committee also asked that the
15 Select Board work to help fill the Historical Preservation seat currently open as well.

16
17 The committee updated a few members on the status of the Valentine project. A December Town
18 Meeting was planned to discuss articles related to zoning changes at the site, but those articles were
19 pulled before the meeting. The Committee reiterated the need for a conservation restriction to be in
20 place to help protect the property long term. Ms. Van Lancker indicated that she would work with the
21 Conservation Restriction Working Group to help get this paperwork going forward.

22
23 Under new business, Mr. Ladd presented a Grant Agreement submitted by the Town Forest Committee
24 based on their recent approved project at the December Town Meeting. The Committee wanted one
25 small change to section #8 about making sure that any unused funds at the end of the project would
26 return to CPC. They agreed to vote on the final grant agreement at their next meeting in March. The
27 Committee then discussed the fact that a grant agreement for the Trolley Brook Trail project was not
28 needed because it would in essence be between the Select Board and itself as the Town would be the
29 one managing the project and the money.

30
31 Mr. Ladd forwarded a request from Ms. Jenn Ball, Assistant Town Manager, asking for an extension of
32 the current funding sunset date of June 30, 2021 for the Mill Pond Park Project. The committee voted 7-
33 0-0 to extend the funding to December 31, 2021.

34
35 Mr. Ladd brought up one possible project to consider in the future related to the Mindess School
36 Building project. Land owned behind the school, currently woods, would be a great site for a nature
37 walk trail and environmental classroom. He referenced to a similar project in Needham behind an
38 Elementary School. Given the January Town Meeting discussion of the Mindess school, he suggested
39 that the CPC advocate for this type of project in the future. Ms. Sayed did some quick research and
40 shared that the town does in fact own the land and that it was given to the Town in the late 1990s. The
41 Committee will discuss this in greater detail in the future.

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43 Ms. Bravacos moved to approve the December 1st minutes. Ms. Saul seconded the motion. The motion
44 passed by a vote of 6-0-1 (Ms Sayed abstained)

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2 The next Meeting is is scheduled for March 2nd @ 7:30pm

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4 Ms. Van Lancker moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bravacos seconded the motion. The motion
5 passed by a vote of 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

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