

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Public Hearing
October 9, 2013**

PRESENT: Janet Bernardo – Chairman, Lita Young – Vice Chairman, Gary Crossen
Reg Foster, Mark Gluesing, Mike Retzky

ABSENT: Carol Boulris, Paul Siegenthaler, Sam Bass Warner

STAFF: Patricia Carey – Staff Liaison
Nicole DiCicco – Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Paul Alpert, Conservation Commission
Connie Barr, Needham School Committee
Richard Blank, Resident
John Bulian, Vice Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Thomas Crimlisk, Resident
Artie Croker, Conservation Commission
Dave Davison, Finance Department
Jane Evans, Resident
Denise Garlick, State Representative
Elaine Kile, Resident
Jeff Kristeller, Town Meeting Member
Phyllis Mays, Resident
Peter Oehlkers, Conservation Commission
Tad Staley, Bay Colony Rail Trail Committee
Lisa Standley, Chairman, Conservation Commission
Carol Urwitz, Town Meeting Member

Ms. Bernardo called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM at the Board of Selectmen Meeting Chambers at Town Hall.

Chairman's Updates: *None at this time*

Public Hearing:

FY2014-2, Rail Trail Insurance – Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman John Bulian explained this request is for funds to pay for a one-time only, 5 year insurance plan as part of the requirements for the lease with the MBTA of the rail right-of-way. The Town would pay the full fee for the insurance, and then a state program would reimburse the Town for 50% of the cost. If CPC funds were approved, the reimbursement would be returned to the CPC. Tad Staley of the Bay Colony Rail Trail Committee added that the MBTA requires indemnification

from all its lease holders to cover the liability associated with taking up the rails and ties that have been in the ground for such a long period of time without being disturbed. Resident Richard Blank expressed his support for the request. There were no further questions or comments from the audience.

FY2014-1, Ridge Hill Boardwalk and Bridge Replacement – Conservation Commission Chairman Lisa Standley shared a Power Point presentation of the proposed project to the Committee including a history of the swamp trail and previous boardwalk along with current information, proposed project details and updated trail maps. *[See Attached: Conservation Commission Power Point Presentation]*

Town Meeting member Carol Urwitz questioned how long it was estimated these new wooden planks and railings would last in comparison to the old bridge and boardwalk wood. Ms. Standley responded that with regular maintenance through the Trails Steward program, it would last for decades. Resident Phyllis Mays expressed her support for the project, outlining an incident last year that required emergency assistance that would have been prevented with the boardwalk in place. Resident Jane Evans asked whether composite wood material had been considered for this project. Ms. Standley explained that the extended life of composite materials was not much better than the pressurized wood to justify such a massively increased price. Resident Susan Abbott expressed concern with the chemicals in the wood damaging the wetlands. Ms. Standley noted that metal rods would be in contact with the water. School Committee member Connie Barr recommended that people go out and visit the trail and observe the benefits. There were no further questions or comments from the audience.

Discussion and Vote on Proposals: *None at this time. The Committee will meet again next week, on Wednesday October 16th to further discuss and vote on both projects.*

Mr. Gluesing made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Ms. Young and was approved unanimously.

Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2013: Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gluesing and was approved unanimously.

Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2013: Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gluesing and was approved unanimously.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

- Wednesday, October 16th, 7:30PM, Highland Room

- Monday, November 4th, Special Town Meeting

Adjournment: Mr. Retzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Ms. Young seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DiCicco
Recording Secretary