

Town of Easton  
Community Preservation Act Committee  
Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11, 2008  
Location: Mary Connolly Meeting Room

**Members in Attendance:** Patricia Hunt, Ed Hands, Doug Mullen, John Grant, Avery Lee Williams, Colleen Less, Dennis Sheedy

**Absent:** Santoro, McDonald

**Others in Attendance:** Mark Rousseau, John Melin

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Hunt at 7:00 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Grant to approve minutes of 8/14/08 as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hands, with Mullen abstaining, approved unanimously.

Motion by Williams to approve but not release executive session minutes of 8/14/08, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant, Mullen abstaining, approved unanimously.

Motion by Hands to approve minutes of 8/25, 2<sup>nd</sup> Less, unanimous.

Motion by Williams to approve executive session minutes of 8/25, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hands, unanimous.

**Status of WWI Memorial** presented by John Melin – stairway deteriorating, questioned availability of funds to be used for repair. Hands questioned the price. Discussion as to whether there stairs have historical value. Committee requested price, contingent on a maximum of \$500 per Grant. Hands stated Mr. King, the property owner, is not responsible for repair or upkeep; he owns the wall, not the stairs. If stairs are part of the Memorial, Town owns stairs, not owner. Williams stated VFW may help with cost. Melin will put a letter together and e-mail Williams with price.

**Community Preservation Issues:**

**Housing:** Sheedy - making progress on 26 Poquanticut; a preliminary application has been written, which will go before the Housing Board. A pond behind house, make recreation area possible. Option to go with 2 townhouses, and grant right of way possible.

**Conservation:** Grant – 5 year plan started in 1976, presented to the committee the original and updated copy. Stated land at Purchase Street, at cross roads of 138, is a habitat for blanding's turtle. Investigated purchase of parcel of land; owner stated 1 house lot available, wrote to board of appeals, who granted a waiver to owner to give Town 16 to 18 acres of habitat land. A map of conservation land, divided into 12 management areas, to be made available.

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**Historic:** Hands – historic preservation plan, interested in buffer zones around historic neighborhoods. To complete study, took maps, which showed many historic neighborhoods are in buffer zones. Will be touring Unity Church to look at where CPA funds were used, will update committee with date.

Shovel shop area is 1 of 10 endangered properties in Mass.

Visited Dean Mill- roof being fixed, windows closed off, rat feces being removed, however raccoons are back in. His plan does not include the Dean Mill. Barn can be used for equipment; may tear down property. Reconvene AdHoc committee to discuss ideas, explaining historical nature of the property. Library is in initial phase of developing Italian garden at Queset and next to Queset House. Clearing for parking lot, poison ivy, some trees taken out, some will remain. Low maintenance garden plan to be developed. They will use volunteer resources and own finances to provide landscaping.

**Recreation:** Mike not present.

**Planning & Zoning:** Christine not present.

Mike McDonald's resignation letter, effective 9/11/08, was read by Hunt. Members stated Mike was helpful in getting the Rec Dept off the ground and in evaluating properties.

Motion to send letter of thanks Mullen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant, unanimous.

Hunt met with Wendy Nightingale regarding Dept of Revenue. She's filed CP1 report, with CPA getting 65% reimbursement.

Rousseau stated 40R, 40B application filed with state, which takes 30 days. Aggressively pursuing 40B, and keeping an open mind.

Mullen – asked the committee's opinion as to how the 40R was handled at Town Meeting. Comments included that public was not given time to be heard. Closing debate was not fair. Those opposed were not given not enough time to be heard. Town moderator and selectmen had too many speakers lined up in favor and would not call on voters who wanted to speak. This unfairly stifled open debate.

**Adjournment:** Motion Mullen, 2nd hands, unanimous.