



**Town of Barnstable**  
**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

[www.town.barnstable.ma.us/CommunityPreservation](http://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/CommunityPreservation)  
Email: [CommunityPreservationCommittee@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:CommunityPreservationCommittee@town.barnstable.ma.us)



Committee Members

Lindsey B. Counsell – Chair • Laura F. Shufelt – Vice Chair • Marilyn Fifield – Historical Commission • Terry Duenas – At Large • Sue Rohrbach – At Large  
Vacant – Planning Board • Tom Lee – Conservation Commission • Richard Sawyer – Recreation Commission • Deborah Converse – Housing Authority  
Will Crocker – Town Council Liaison

**Monday, July 24, 2017**

2017 NDJ 29 PM 3:08

**Regular Public Hearing – APPROVED Minutes**

367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Hearing Room

BARNSTABLE TOWN CLERK

**5:30 PM**

<b>Lindsey Counsell – Chair</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Laura Shufelt – Vice Chair</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Marilyn Fifield – Clerk</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Terry Duenas</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Tom Lee</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Sue Rohrbach</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Richard Sawyer</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>Deborah Converse</b>	<b>Present</b>
<b>William Crocker, Town Council Liaison</b>	<b>Absent</b>

**Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Chair Lindsey Counsell called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Chair Counsell then read into record: "Please note that tonight's meeting is recorded and broadcast on Channel 18 and, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, s.20, I must inquire whether anyone is taping this meeting and to please make their presence known." No one present was recording the meeting.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Marilyn Fifield and seconded by Tom Lee to approve the draft Community Preservation Committee meeting minutes of June 26, 2017, as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Letters of Intent**

None received.

**Applications/Presentations:**

Application from Sturgis Library seeking \$78,024 CPA Historic Preservation funds for a local newspaper digitization project "History Revealed: Digitization of the Register and Barnstable Patriot Newspapers" that is planned in partnership with the Dennis and Yarmouth Libraries and Community Preservation Committees.

Sturgis Library Director Lucy Loomis gave an overview of the application, noting that Sturgis Library had digitized and indexed the first 100 years of *The Barnstable Patriot* newspaper nine years ago with a federal grant and Barnstable CP funds, with funds now

sought to digitize the remaining years, from 1931 to the present. She said *The Register* has not been digitized previously, so funds are sought to digitize this newspaper in its entirety (1836 to present). She described the benefits of a digital archive employing Olive Software to allow public access online and research using keywords, as well as printing, e-mailing and sharing on social media. She explained that the archives of the undigitized issues are now limited to a microfilm reader located on site at the libraries, and she noted that Dennis and Yarmouth libraries are also working in equal partnership on the project.

Marstons Mills Historical Society President David Martin described the collaborative effort behind the "History Revealed" project, identifying 21 individuals from different constituencies: 6 historical societies, including Dennis and Yarmouth; present and past editors of both newspapers; and Library Directors representing village libraries and the Nickerson Room at Cape Cod Community College. He explained that Professor Jim Gould of Cotuit first identified a need to strike a balance in access to the views of the times on Cape Cod by digitizing both Cape Cod newspapers, since their 19<sup>th</sup> century views on both local and national events differed.

Mr. Barry Pastor, publisher of *The Register* from 1975 through 1990, provided a brief history of the newspaper which was established in 1836 as a regional newspaper and was a newspaper of record, covering stories from the entire Cape and national news on a par with Boston newspapers of the same era. He noted that a political falling out involving *The Barnstable Patriot* established in 1830 had led to the establishment of *The Register* in 1836.

Mr. David Still, editor of *The Barnstable Patriot* for 20 years ending in 2013, explained that, long ago, *The Barnstable Patriot* was a four-page newspaper carrying news from around the country as well as opinions which could be quite blunt. He added that he agreed with Mr. Gould that the digitization of both newspapers would provide two media sources offering balance and a more complete view of events, especially leading up to the Civil War.

Mr. Dana Hornig, editor of *The Register* for 15 years, stated that, almost weekly, someone would approach him regarding how to obtain information, and, noting that people have a very strong interest in the history of their community, he called digitization of *The Register* archive preservation of community history.

Ms. Loomis detailed the digitization process using Olive Software, saying the wide difference between the two quotes is due to the difference in quality between the products offered. T.C. Carter narrated an entertaining PowerPoint presentation demonstrating the navigation features and capabilities of the Olive Software in an actual search and sharing of information.

Mr. Richard Sawyer said he was impressed with the presentation and support for the project, and Ms. Loomis explained, in answering Tom Lee's inquiry, that costs associated with software updates will be shared between the three libraries as a part of the annual fees.

In answering an inquiry from Mr. Bruce Mann from the audience, Ms. Loomis said that the product is an application and not an open-source browser, which would allow a search using Google, etc.

**Motion was made by Richard Sawyer and seconded by Marilyn Fifield to approve the Sturgis Library Application seeking \$78,024 in CPA Historic Preservation Funds for the local newspaper digitization project "History Revealed: Digitization of the Register and Barnstable Patriot Newspapers". Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

Application from Barnstable Land Trust requesting \$382,500 in CPA Open Space/Recreation funds for the acquisition of a 2.18 acre property located at 3600 Falmouth Road/Rte 28, Marstons Mills, Map 077, Parcel 005.

Ms. Janet Milkman and Ms. Jaci Barton represented Barnstable Land Trust, and Ms. Barton narrated a PowerPoint presentation of the property including several maps. She called the property "The Mill Pond Overlook," a 2.18 acre parcel located at the intersection of Routes 149 and Route 28 in Marstons Mills with frontage on Mill Pond and including two structures. She explained that the property is important because it is located at the entrance to the village and is also environmentally significant due to its frontage on scenic Mill Pond; it abuts Town-owned land; BLT land and the Town's most active anadromous fish run; and it is a habitat for rare species and important to the State as Priority Habitat, with two rare species identified – the Eastern Box Turtle and the Bridal Shiner that is in the pond itself. She further explained that, undeveloped, its acquisition for open space will alleviate a potential traffic hazard at this busy intersection and also protect another link in the sidewalk from the village to the Cotuit Landing shopping center, while also helping to protect water quality in the 3 bays. She said that the possibility of a new trail would be considered, once acquired, as well as fishing along the shoreline, adding that the budget for the project includes funds to build the trail. Ms. Barton said the Charles Marston House, originally constructed in 1821, and a small cottage are in disrepair and will be removed as a part of the project, with the house to be commemorated by a plaque and the land returned to a natural state. Ms. Barton added that BLT will be applying for the maximum possible \$85,000 State Conservation Partnership Grant while seeking the full \$382,500 in CP funds, with reimbursement of the grant amount to the CP Fund if the State grant is awarded in November. She explained that the Town of Barnstable will end up owning the land, with Barnstable Land Trust holding the Conservation Restriction.

Tom Lee said that this project came before the Conservation Commission and received strong support for not only acquisition of the property, but for the trail built upfront. Marilyn Fifield expressed concern regarding the demolition of a historic house that is in the Town's and State's Inventory of Historic Assets, preferring that it be retained. Ms. Fifield added that she always supports open space preservation, but she supports preservation of historic structures, as well. Further, she said she would be unlikely to support its demolition, if the property comes before the Historical Commission, preferring instead to find a way to save at least the original house. She also expressed concern for allocating CPA funds for the demolition of historic property. Ms. Barton replied that the house is in very poor condition, with trees growing through it. There was discussion regarding having the house evaluated to see if it could be moved.

Terry Duenas asked how many more parcels are planned to be acquired to protect the entire pond, and Ms. Barton replied that there is only one other property that is undeveloped, with the rest all developed or already preserved.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Zenus Crocker, Executive Director of the Barnstable Clean Water Coalition, formerly 3 Bays Preservation, spoke in support of the project, saying he has been working with the Town and the Coalition on a plan called the Marstons Mills River Natural Treatment System, with the restoration of Mill Pond the keystone of this effort. He added that the Marstons Mills Pond has the ability to eliminate 24% of nitrates that are going into the 3 Bays, and he said the pond will be even more beautiful when it returns to its original depth of 6 to 12 feet. In the pond, he explained, nitrogen in the water can sit and gasify for a few days and release into the atmosphere harmlessly, and he called this property critical as a staging area for that restoration.

**Motion was made by Tom Lee and seconded by Richard Sawyer to approve Barnstable Land Trust's Application requesting \$382,500 in CPA Open Space/Recreation funds for the acquisition of 2.18 acres at 3600 Falmouth Road, Marstons Mills, with the condition that if a State grant is awarded to BLT, funds in that amount will be returned to the CP Fund. Motion carried, with Marilyn Fifield opposed.**

**Correspondence Received:**

Reviewed by the Chairman:

- 2017 Open Space & Recreation Plan Update – Schedule of Meetings/Survey.

**General Discussion:**

Chris Gonnella, Structures & Grounds – AmeriCorps Open Space Property Inventory and Maintenance Program

- Mr. Gonnella explained that in a year's time Americorp members mapped and photographed CPA and Land Bank properties at 90 locations, then compiled them in a binder that was given to CPC at the meeting.
- He noted that Conservation and BLT properties abut each other and their correlation with Cape Cod Pathways is planned.
- Will from AmeriCorps was present and was recognized for his abilities and hard work on this project, and it was noted that he will be employed by Barnstable Land Trust next year.
- Mr. Gonnella said that trash is an enforcement issue and the worst problem facing these properties.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Bruce Mann, owner of the Marstons House, Marstons Mills, identified a hazardous street parking problem associated with people accessing the herring run at Marston Pond, and expressed that he hoped that a safe parking area could be established.

## **Updates**

- Chair Counsell informed the CPC Members that the CC Rail Trail bikepath is at 75% design and under review by various entities including Mass DOT. He said that the bridge over Route 134 in Dennis has been completed. Bass River bridge is behind schedule.

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Tom Lee and seconded by Laura Shufelt to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

## **Next Regularly Scheduled CPC Meeting – August 28, 2017**

### ***List of documents/exhibits used by the Committee at the meeting***

Exhibit #1 –Draft CPC Minutes – Meeting June 26, 2017

Exhibit #2-Application-Sturgis Library-“History Revealed” Digitization Project

Exhibit #3-Application-BLT-Acquisition of Mill Pond Overlook, Marstons Mills including letters of support.

Exhibit #4-Schedule of Unreserved Fund Balances by Program Area 7/11/17

Exhibit #5-2017 Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Invitation

Exhibit #6-PowerPoint Presentation-Sturgis Library –“History Revealed”

Exhibit #7-PowerPoint Presentation-BLT-Mill Pond Overlook, Marstons Mills

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Swiniarski  
Administrative Assistant  
Community Preservation Committee  
*Edited by CPC Clerk Marilyn Fifield*

**Please Note:** The list of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. It is possible that if it so votes, the Committee may go into executive session. The Committee may also act on items in an order other than they appear on this agenda.

- \* Public files are available for viewing during normal business hours at the Community Preservation office located at 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA