

DRAFT

Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board Meeting Minutes June 3, 2010

Members present: Chair Susan Ezrati, Rich Biezynski, Pete Hubbell, Brent Kovalchik, Robin Logan
Absent: Phil Seymour

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present for the conduct of business. Susan said that Ted will be incorporating what the Board has done on the parcel mapping into the overall plan. In the meantime, the focus should be on the sub-committee on the villages and hamlets. Brent said that the sub-committee has met and is trying to come up with a ranking for properties in the village which are cultural resources. He said that for properties which need to be protected due to proximity to the aquifer, a check mark could be made on the ranking which would add to the score of the property. Cultural resources in the village of Tivoli are pretty clearly defined. Tivoli is under part of a national historic district but it is not a preservation district.

Brent said that he has researched methods for protecting cultural resources such as a historic building or elements of a historic site. He said that the L'Enfant Society in Washington, D.C. basically uses easements. He has found their application and easement forms, which could be used as templates. People donate their facades to the Society and they are included in a conservation easement for which stewardship is then provided. In addition, the property owners can apply for funding from the CPF for preservation. Restoration would have to be in accordance with the guidelines of the Secretary of the Interior.

Rich said that property owners cannot get money from the CPF unless they have a partner. He asked who would be partnering with the landowners. Brent said that it has not been fully researched yet; however, there might be conservancy groups which would partner with the town.

Susan said that thus far she has a list of about ten properties which are actually on the Register. Rich asked if there are any properties with historic significance. In response, the group cited Maizeland, St. Margaret's and DePeyster Hall. Pete said that in the case of most façade easements the owners are not looking for cash, but rather for a tax deduction. Brent stressed that the property has to be listed on the State historical register.

Susan said that the greenbelts around the villages need to be conserved as such and also because they are farmlands. This does not necessarily mean that money has to be expended. Once you have identified property as being valuable, zoning or other methods of protecting its character can be employed. E.g. Tivoli, which is in a national historic district, is doing a historic overlay in which there will be distinct zoning laws designed to protect the historic character of the area.

Susan said she is working on getting bigger maps. Ted has one of the village. Rich asked if she had a list of categories yet. Susan replied that they could probably use the same categories, but in the villages categories like prime soils would not be checked. The Board then had a brief discussion of the village sewer project and the Tivoli waterfront project.

Susan noted that last year the Board did not meet in July and she suggested that the July meeting be skipped and, in the interim, the sub-committee could meet and bring something to the August meeting. The Board was in agreement.

Susan asked if the Board had any changes or corrections to the May 6, 2010 Minutes. Hearing none, Pete made a motion to accept the Minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Brent and all were in favor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pete and seconded by Rich. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. The next meeting will be held on April 1, 2010 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Franklin