

**Town of Marlborough
Community Development Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Marlborough Town Hall
November 28, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Bader called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. in the meeting room of Town Hall. Members in attendance included Nancy Bader, Ned Hickey, Carolyne Gatesy Joanne Goode. Also in attendance was Peter Hughes.

2. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Louise Concodello
Owen McGaughey

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion by Ned Hickey to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2005 meeting. The motion was seconded by Carolyne Gatesy and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Motion by Joanne Goode to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2005 meeting. The motion was seconded by Nancy Bader. Joanne Goode and Nancy Bader voted in favor of the motion. Ned Hickey and Carolyne Gatesy abstained. Motion carried.

5. NATURE TRAILS - RECOMMENDATIONS

Owen McGaughey reported that he is meeting with Sal Menzo, Loraine Giannini and some teachers at the elementary school on November 29th to discuss the educational aspects of the nature trails for the school. He said that the design of the trails might change from the original concept after meeting with the school. There was a group discussion about how best to utilize the \$35,000 available for the school trail system. Some suggestions included designing one trail that can benefit all grade levels instead of three separate trails. Peter Hughes gave cost estimates in the area of \$12-\$13 per square foot. The group also discussed the need for a group to take ownership of the nature trail project, not just at the school but also for the entire town. The group agreed that a new committee should be formed, consisting of three members of the general public and a representative from Parks & Rec., Conservation and Planning.

Motion by Joanne Goode to form a Nature Trails Committee consisting of members of the community and representatives from the Parks & Rec., Conservation and Planning commissions. The motion was seconded by Carolyne Gatesy and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Ned Hickey suggested that Owen draft a list of projects for the Nature Trails Committee to consider. There are many community groups in town that could help with the trail project, such as the Scouts.

6. CAPITAL PROJECTS – PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

The group discussed the list of capital projects, including library expansion, Blish Park bath house renovation, Blish Park playscape repairs, town roads, nature trails, Town Hall renovation, vehicle

replacement, the new food bank, open space land acquisition, police department in the town center, new athletic fields, sidewalks and an overall plan for Blish Park. There was a lengthy discussion about each of these items, how much they cost, and how they could be funded. Mr. Hughes advised that there might be approx. \$200,000-\$400,000 in grants available for the Blish Park bath house (STEP grant) and \$500,000 available for the Town Hall renovation (STEAP/Small Cities grant). In addition, Nancy Wood advised previously that there is a possible \$500,000 grant for the library expansion. The food bank will be eligible for federal assistance after it is operating for six months. The library expansion (approx. \$5MN-\$6MN) is the biggest item, followed by road repairs (\$3MN-\$5MN) and the Town Hall renovation (\$500K-\$1.5MN). These three items would need to be bonded. Smaller items such as the playscape repairs (\$50K-\$100K), the Blish Park bathhouse repairs (\$200K-\$400K) and the nature trails (\$400K) would not need to be bonded. The group discussed the need for fundraising for the library project (given the large cost) and felt that approx. \$1MN could be raised by fundraising. In addition to these items, Sal Menzo will present the school's capital improvement projects at the next CDAC meeting on December 19th.

7. CDAC – MISSION/ROLE GOING FORWARD

Nancy Bader noted that the CDAC group was formed two years ago, come February 2006. If the group is to continue beyond two years, an ordinance is required. The group accomplished the community survey and spearheaded the town center planning process. It was successful in that it acted as a conduit between the community at large and the various commissions. The group discussed whether it should remain intact and discussed other areas it could put its focus, i.e. making sure the town center plan continues its momentum, development of architectural standards, etc.

Motion by Carolyn Gatesy that the Community Development Advisory Commission becomes a permanent commission. The motion was seconded by Joanne Goode and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business. Nancy Bader noted that Sharon Reiner will be Acting First Selectman as of January 2nd, when she steps down. Superintendent Sal Menzo and some members of the Board of Education will present the school's capital improvement projects at the December 19th CDAC meeting. In the meantime, Peter Hughes and Nancy Bader will put together a summary of the group's discussion regarding the town's capital projects and specific recommendations can be made in December.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Joanne Goode to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Sciano