

Community Preservation Committee  
Minutes  
March 24, 2016  
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Members Present: William Dugan, Co-Chair, Catherine Schlichte, Co-Chair, Scott Smith, John Feener, David Rhineland, Ellen Preston, Heidi Wakeman

Members Absent: Barbara Silberman, Scott Smith and Hank McCarl

Note: Barbara Silberman was absent because she recused herself because she is the head of Save Our Shores Gloucester

Staff Present: Debbie Laurie, Senior Project Manager

Others: Jim Destino, Chief Administrative Officer; Melissa Cox, Councillor

A special meeting of the committee was convened for a Motion to Reconsider brought by Catherine Schlichte to reconsider the Motion to Approve a grant of funds to the Land Conservation and Advocacy Trust for the purpose of acquiring approximately 1.87 acres of land located at 178 Atlantic Road. .

MOVED by Catherine Schlichte, SECONDED by John Feener to reconsider the Motion to Approve \$50,000 for the Land Conservation and Advocacy Trust for land on the Back Shore. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Catherine stated that she called for the reconsideration after discussions with the Mayor's office. There is currently litigation pending between the landowner, Cheryl Soones and the City of Gloucester regarding this parcel of land. The Chief Administrator advised that the Mayor's office could not support the CPC's funding recommendation unless it was conditioned upon dismissal of the pending Soones lawsuit. This seems to be a reasonable and prudent position. It does not make sense to use taxpayer funds to purchase land that is entangled in a lawsuit with the City. Essentially we'd be helping to fund litigation against the City and this is not a wise use of taxpayer dollars.

After further discussion amongst the board, it was

MOVED by Catherine Schlichte, SECONDED by John Feener To recommend that the City Council grant \$50,000 to the Land Conservation and Advocacy Trust or its nominee which shall be a qualified third party for the purpose of purchasing a conservation restriction pursuant to G.L. c. 44B, Section 12 and G.L. c. 184 Section 31-33, on the premises known as 178 Atlantic Road, Lots 20, D, E & 43 as further described in Document No. 457424 in the Registered Land Section of the Essex

South District Registry of Deeds, shown on Certificate of Title No. 78745. This grant shall be conditioned upon

1. the dismissal of the pending lawsuit known as Cheryl Soones vs. City of Gloucester; and
2. preparation of the conservation restriction by the applicant and approval of same by the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs and General Counsel for the City of Gloucester.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY