

# Canal Park Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Date: February 23, 2016

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: South Hadley Public Library

Present were members Bacis, Constant, Fleming, and Resnick.

The meeting was to order at 6:00pm.

Minutes of the December 15, 2015 and December 16, 2015 meetings were approved.

Motion made by Bacis and seconded by Fleming.

There were no minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting as there was no quorum present.

### Correspondence:

Resnick received an email from Leo Labonte regarding membership in the National Canal Association. The membership application appears to be tailored for individual donors, not association members. Labonte will research and reply.

Resnick received a press release about Holyoke's Infrastructure Day, an event recognizing Holyoke's historic dams and canals on May 14, 2016. The organizers have offered to include any South Hadley event within public relations and advertising efforts. The Committee decided to hold a concurrent event, Canal Park Day, the same day, featuring a display of CPC documents and photos in the SHPL Local History Room. Bacis suggested including the Historical Society Firehouse Museum as a program site as well. We will talk with Diane Laroche about HS participation.

Resnick received a notice from Library Director Joe Rodio about the "Town Wide Preservation Assessment & Collection Identification" grant that SHPL applied for to the MBLC. The grant will provide resources to engage the services of a professional consultant to organize a program focused on the preservation assessment of collections, a first step toward preserving, arranging and describing and digitizing historically significant local Massachusetts collections. The public library in partnership with other local repositories, has applied to have the consultant conduct a preservation assessment of the community's repositories.

### Financial:

Bank statements are being mailed to the CPC c/o Resnick.

## Old Business:

The CPC continues to talk with Eagle Scout candidate Ethan McKeever about his project to upgrade the circular bench at the overlook. The next meeting will be 4pm March 31 at the overlook. Once Ethan's project is completed, it was suggested that the committee talk with Scout Leader Steve Roberts about annual Eagle Scout projects to make park improvements and regular scout participation in overall park and trail maintenance.

Bacis, Fleming, and Resnick reported on the joint meeting with Bike/Walk Committee. It was agreed that both committees share common goals; that joint programming and event planning would be beneficial.

Fleming and Resnick reported on their meeting with Conservation Officer Janice Stone about modification of the 2003 Orders of Condition that could allow transfer of one approved pruning vistas to a preferred location closer to the overlook. Constant suggested that placement of the intended memorial benches would be better at Texon Park where we have preliminary approval from HG&E and where the Committee will not incur pruning expenses in the event the pruning vista is approved. Before the location of memorial benches is set, the Committee decided to meet at the park March 31 at 4pm to identify, measure, and flag the potential pruning vista area prior to formal submission of a request for modification to the Conservation Committee.

Resnick reported on his discussion with the Town Administrator about the best way that the Committee can be certain that the Canal integrity is respected by residents and how best to deal with violations. Because CPC has no regulatory authority, it was suggested that the Committee endorse the actions of the Conservation Commission to enforce by-laws and identify violations. Resnick presented a draft letter to Conservation that will be revised and presented at the March meeting for approval.

Bacis and Fleming reported on the Know Your Town event focusing on town committees and how residents can participate in town government.

## New Business:

There was a lively discussion about the Community Preservation Act and how the CPC, among other town agencies, may benefit from passage of the Act at town elections April 12.

Our next meeting will be 6pm Tuesday March 22 at the Public Library

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Mitch Resnick