

Community Preservation Committee
October 22, 2013
Police Station Conference Room
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Dissette at 7:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Paul Healy, Judith Grohe, Margaret Welch, Jane Healey and Don Little.

3. Minutes

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2013 meeting as submitted. Margaret Welch seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Annual Public Information Hearing

An informational meeting about the CPA is held annually for the purpose of discussing the acquisition and preservation of open space, historic, affordable housing and recreation resources. A notice about the annual public hearing was posted in the *Daily News*. Sheila Mullins asked about the status of the Masonic Temple preservation restriction and the World War Memorial Stadium project. Mike Dissette said the preservation restriction for the Masonic Temple has not yet been signed. He intends to schedule a meeting for the involved parties to move the process forward. He said a portion of the grant for the stadium had been conditioned on the receipt of additional funding. The funds were carried over for three cycles before being reallocated. The visitor side of the stadium is to be demolished and would not be eligible for CPA funds.

5. General Business

Market Street Apartments

Judith Grohe reported on the celebration for the opening of the YWCA Market Street Apartments. She said the quality of the work is very high. While the need for affordable housing is great, the number participating in the raffle was smaller than had been expected.

Open Space

Mike Dissette reported the Open Space Committee has the opportunity to consider the acquisition of three parcels. The parcels are the first prospects that have been arisen in many years. Ten acres are available near Maudslay State Park and 15 acres are for sale on Low Street. The acquisition of any one of the three prospects would deplete the open space fund.

Open Space Reserves

Kate Newhall-Smith reported the current balance of the open space reserve is \$848,289.68. Of this \$453,600 is in banked open space reserves, \$283,555.68 is from closed out open space projects and \$111,134 is in uncommitted funds that could be utilized in any of the categories.

Community Preservation Committee
October 22, 2013

Committee Elections

Mike Dissette has indicated he would like to step down as Chair of the CPC due to increasing work demands, but he intends to remain on the committee. Paul Healy nominated Judith Grohe for the position of Chair. Margaret Welch seconded the motion, saying she has a balanced perspective and she supports all three categories in a visible way in the community. The motion was unanimously approved. Paul Healy moved to nominate Mike Dissette for the position of Vice Chair. Margaret Welch seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2014 CPA Application Form

No changes to the application form for FY2014 CPA funds are necessary. The deadline for the receipt of the applications will be Thursday, February 13, 2014.

Project Updates

Kate Newhall-Smith distributed a staff report that included updates on several projects. She said inquiries have been made about the down payment assistance program but no applications have been received. She said potential applicants typically do not have enough income to obtain a bank mortgage and if they did, they would not qualify for the affordable housing funds. She added the Multiple Listing Service is a great benefit for affordable housing. Don Little asked about the \$225 that was expended by the Housing Rehab program. The funds were used for an emergency repair and no approval from the committee was needed. Mike Dissette noted the contracts have not yet been signed for the Cherry Hill Soccer Field Improvement or the Atwood Park Improvement.

Status of Surplus and Matching Funds

It has been announced that \$25 million of the FY2013 State budget surplus is set to be transferred to the CPA Trust Fund at the end of the month. The surplus will be available for allocation in the next round of funding. The State match totaled 26% in FY2013 and is expected to be slightly higher in FY2014.

6. Upcoming Meetings

No meetings will take place in November and December unless an emergency application is received. The next meeting of the CPC will be scheduled for January 27, 2014.

7. Adjournment

Paul Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Judith Grohe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.