

## **Community Preservation Committee**

October 27, 2015

Police Station Conference Room

Minutes

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Mike Dissette called a regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Don Little, Judith Grohe, Paul Healy, Dan Koen, Sarah White, Steve Sawyer, Leah McGavern and Jane Healey. Also in attendance was Kate Newhall-Smith.

### **3. Annual Public Informational Meeting**

Mike Dissette said the annual meeting provides an opportunity for the Committee to conduct a dialogue with members of the community on the needs, possibilities and resources for the acquisition and preservation of open space, affordable housing and historic and recreational resources. He discussed the history of the CPA in the city and described the make up of the committee. He said in Newburyport, unlike in other communities, the Committee does not have the need to initiate projects. He asked for questions and comments from the audience.

Brian Schwartz of Congregation Ahavas Achim asked if any changes have been made to the criteria for grants. The building has reached its 150th anniversary and is showing signs of wear. While no specific projects have yet been identified for a grant, he wishes to complete a strong application to be considered for funding. He was told the criteria remain the same and are available on the City's website. This year fewer funds than ever before will be available for award. With regards to historic structures used by churches, the Committee members look favorably on projects that provide public access, bring the exterior of a structure up to code or contribute to the historic built environment. However worthy a project might be, the Committee would not fund improvements to the interior of a structure. Mr. Schwartz was advised to rank elements of the work in terms of immediacy because projects are rarely fully funded.

Paul Swindlehurst asked about the amount of funds that would be available to be awarded. After the debt service on the bonds has been paid, the amount remaining is expected to be approximately \$450,000. This figure does not include any additional funds that might result from a State budget surplus. The State match is expected to be 18%. This might increase to 20% due to increased activity at the Registry of Deeds. Funds of \$100,000 that were held in escrow for the Curzon Mill Road property are to be returned to the open space reserve.

### **4. Minutes**

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2015 meeting as amended. Judith Grohe seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Dan Koen, Sarah White and Steve Sawyer abstaining.