

Community Preservation Committee
October 28, 2014
Police Station Conference Room
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Mike Dissette called a regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Annual Meeting

Mike Dissette opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Tom Salemi, chair of the NRA, said the public would like to see an expansion of open, public space on the waterfront. The NRA does not receive enough revenue from parking to be able to create a park on its property and is seeking funding sources from within the community. A long-term plan has not yet been developed, but the group intends to activate underutilized corners of its property in the short term by installing movable outdoor furniture. Mike Dissette said a plan and budget must be included with an application for CPA funding. He questioned if contributing to a short-term situation would be a wise investment of public funds.

Mr. Salemi responded that the NRA's current plans represent an incremental step rather than a temporary measure. He said the NRA intends to use its own funds to create the interim spaces. The CPA funds would be used for the implementation of a permanent park.

Sheila Mullins suggested the committee educate the community on the types of projects for which CPA funds might be used. Mike Dissette responded that in Newburyport, unlike in other communities, the committee has not had the need to initiate projects.

4. General Business

Judith Grohe moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2014 meeting as submitted. Don Little seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5. Election of Officers

Judith Grohe said that while she is deeply sorry she would not be able to fulfill her commitment, she does not believe she should remain Chair. She said she wishes to remain on the committee as long as she is able. She nominated Mike Dissette for the position of Chair. Dan Koen seconded the motion. Mr. Dissette said his professional workload has lightened enough to allow him to return to the position, provided he might be able to reevaluate the situation in a year. The motion was unanimously approved.

Judith Grohe nominated Jane Healey for the position of Vice Chair. Mike Dissette seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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6. 2015 Application For Funding

The committee members approved changes to the language of the grant application to indicate ten paper copies and one electronic copy of completed applications must be submitted and applicants seeking affordable housing funds must attend a Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust meeting to review and discuss their applications. No vote was necessary.

7. Staff Report

Kate Newhall-Smith reported the estimated revenue and undesignated funds for FY2016 total \$904,665.23 and the obligations are \$303,856.26, leaving an estimated \$600,808.97 in available funds. This does not include any additional funds that might be available from the State surplus. She will obtain status reports on the Atwood Park and Moseley Woods wall projects for the next meeting. She will also look into the \$3.5 million budget for the project at the Bartlet Mall Frog Pond and the plans to replace the fountain.

8. Other Business

Little River Trail Kiosks

A dedication ceremony for the first Little River Trail kiosk is scheduled for November 15.

Upcoming Meetings

The November and December meetings will most likely be cancelled. The next meeting is expected to take place on January 27, 2015. The due date for grant applications is February 12.

9. Adjournment

Mike Dissette moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Judith Grohe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.