

Community Preservation Committee
Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2011

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Dissette at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Paul Healy, Don Little, Mary Lou Gagnon, Judith Grohe, Margaret Welch and Bob Uhlig. Also in attendance was Emily Wentworth.

3. General Business

• Approval of Minutes

Bob Uhlig moved to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2011 meeting. Mike Dissette seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Margaret Welch and Judith Grohe abstaining.

Don Little moved to renew the Committee's membership in the Community Preservation Coalition. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mike Dissette said Anne Gardner has withdrawn as the Planning Board representation on the CPC and will be replaced by Don Walters.

4. 2011 Applications for Community Preservation Funds

Emily Wentworth distributed a list of 15 applications for 2011 CPA funds. The total amount requested by this year's applicants is \$886,529. Mike Dissette said the amount available to be awarded would be approximately \$425,000.

Emily Wentworth distributed a letter from Maureen A. Ryan written in support of the Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust's application for CPA funds to sustain the down payment assistance program.

Mike Dissette said the City would like one of the applications to move forward as quickly as possible. He moved to remove the Bartlet Wharf Timber Conservation application from the standard grant cycle and considerate it as an emergency application. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The project involves the conservation of a section of timber bulkhead from a wharf that was discovered while work was being done on the City's wastewater treatment facility. The Newburyport Historical Commission has submitted a letter of support for the application. The cost of the project is \$3,700, which includes transportation to and from Maryland. Bill Harris submitted a letter from the Maryland Department of Planning to the Maritime Society requesting a partial payment for the work. Pieter Hartford, the contractor for the work at the wastewater treatment facility, has submitted a payment of \$1,770 to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab.

Emily Wentworth said that while there are no historic preservation reserve funds, money might be available in the general fund. There is between \$30,000 and \$40,000 that has not been allocated over the years, but it is not known if this money is available for use at this time. If funds are reserved before the end of the calendar year, they may be used between the beginning of the next calendar year and the end of the fiscal year. This was not done last year and it is not yet known if money from prior years would remain in the general fund after the end of the fiscal year. The City Auditor must clarify the issue. If funds from past years were not accessible, money for the timber conservation would have to be taken from the 2011 funds, which would not be available until after June 30. Mike Dissette moved to recommend paying the full amount of the request as soon as the money is available. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Upcoming Meetings

The application will be presented according to the following schedule:

March 8

YWCA Affordable Housing
Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust
Newburyport Housing Rehabilitation Program
Milk Street Affordable Housing Restoration

March 22

Old South Church Roof Restoration
Belleville Congregational Church Restoration Project
St. Anna's Chapel Restoration Project
Rediscovering Caleb Cushing
Oak Hill Cemetery Gravestone Restoration

April 26

Open Space Fund
Moseley to Maudslay Trail Connection Project
Clipper City Rail Trail Connection Project
Joppa Park Renovation
Newburyport Clipper Heritage Trail

Questions on applications should be forwarded to Emily Wentworth. Mike Dissette said he would like clarification of the position of the landlord and status of the lease for the Milk Street property. Mary Lou Gagnon said the Newburyport Housing Authority is the landlord and did not know the application was being submitted. The lease was not renewed. Emily Wentworth will look into scheduling a joint meeting between members of the CPC and the Affordable Housing Trust on April 12. She will invite Trust members to attend the March 8 meeting.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.