

Community Preservation Committee

March 22, 2011

Police Station Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Dissette at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. General Business

Minutes

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the March 9 meeting as amended. Bob Uhlig seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. 2011 Applications for Community Preservation Funds

Old South Church Roof Restoration - \$20,000

Rob John, Pastor of Old South Church, said the focus in past years has been on the restoration of the steeple and the painting of the exterior. Now a new roof is needed. It has been patched and has leaked during recent storms. There is concern that the leaks might damage the trompe l'oeil ceiling. The church has started a capital campaign and has some funds in reserve. The budget includes \$70,000 for the new roof and \$16,000 for chimney work. Paul Healy asked about other sources of funding. Rev. John said the funding for the roof is from another source and is not a part of this application.

Belleville Congregational Church Restoration Project - \$70,000

Dorothy Williamson said the church is looking for funding for improvements to the vestry. She said the porches are deteriorating and the five entryways are in need of repair. Many groups in the community make use of the parish hall. Margaret Welch suggested that estimates from other preservation contractors be obtained and said the Newburyport Historical Commission would be able to provide a list of names. Mike Dissette asked about the plan to replace the balusters and rails with ones made of vinyl. Margaret said the material specified is an acceptable one. Paul Healy asked about other sources of funding. The church is hosting concerts to raise money and has applied to local banks for grants for work on the interior of the vestry. CPA funding is being sought for the exterior portion of the work.

St. Anna's Chapel Restoration Project - \$35,000

Bronson de Stadler said St. Paul's Church is in the third year of a capital campaign. The work on the roof, finials, two facades and half of the windows has been completed to date. Attention is now being focused on the masonry on the graveyard-facing facade and the windows in that wall. The windows are to be protected by a hard, clear plastic. The work on the frame of the trefoil window is almost complete. Mr. de Stadler said he would like to illuminate the interior of the chapel during commuting hours in order that the stained glass is visible from the exterior. Grants are also being sought from other sources.

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Rediscovering Caleb Cushing - \$4,000

Jim Dyer and Mary Hasslinger discussed the importance of Caleb Cushing in the history of the City and said many residents do not know much about him. They are seeking CPA funds to install a path to his grave in Highland Cemetery. A granite marker would be installed at the beginning of the path. Funding has been obtained from another source for the first half of the project and CPA funds are being requested to complete the work. The foundation to the monument has been installed. Work to repair the granite gravestone is planned for a later date. Mike Dissette asked about the sequencing of the work. Ghlee Woodworth recommended that the path not be installed around the marker until it has been repaired. Bob Uhlig recommended using a material other than peastone for the path. Don Little asked if the path might instead begin at Hill Street, which would be a shorter distance, but was told the terrain is too uneven.

Oak Hill Cemetery Gravestone Restoration – \$1,995

Ghlee Woodworth said funds from past CPA grants were used to hire a stone conservator who trained volunteers to repair and restore gravestones. To date 325 gravestones in Old Hill Cemetery have repaired along with 80 in Highland Cemetery. The gravestones in these cemeteries were of slate, while in Oak Hill the markers are bigger and heavier. A participant from a community service program will be assisting with the work for 120 hours.

Clipper Heritage Trail - \$6,344

Ghlee Woodworth said the Chamber of Commerce is developing a series of self-guided tours through the downtown and to other important sites. Information on the tours will be available on a website, a mobile website and through brochures that will be distributed at the Chamber and in museums. The route will be marked with granite pavers set in brick sidewalks. The number markers installed will depend on the amount of funding received. CPA funds are being sought for 35 markers that will be placed downtown. Margaret Welch asked if the Chamber would be able to help fund the cost of the markers. Ghlee said the Chamber would be assisting with the production of the brochures. She distributed a letter of support for the project from Mayor Holaday. Bronson de Stadler said the project would help other applicants by bringing visitors to their sites. Don Walters recommended setting the bricks in mortar.

5. Other Business

Don Walters asked about the fluctuation in revenue. Emily Wentworth said the state match is estimated to be 25%.

6. Upcoming Meetings

A joint meeting of the Community Preservation Committee and the Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust will take place on April 12 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee will take place on April 26 at 7:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Paul Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Bob Uhlig seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.