

## **Community Preservation Committee**

April 22, 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, Paul Healy, Jane Healey, Linda Smiley, Don Little and Dan Koen. Also in attendance was Kate Newhall-Smith.

### **3. Application Presentations**

#### **Inn Street Fountain Restoration and Interpretive Signage**

City of Newburyport, Office of Planning and Development

\$75,000

Andy Port said the fountain was at the center of the urban renewal efforts and its stones were taken from the central waterfront. It has been out of order due to concerns about the quality of the water. The fountain would be restored and elements would be added that would make it interactive. A low fence would be installed around the fountain to discourage children from playing in the water. A raised gutter system would capture storm water flowing down Inn Street and channel it into grates to be directed in underground pipes towards Market Square. Two interpretive signs would be installed that illustrate the history of the downtown. The bricks around the fountain have settled more than the granite, creating a tripping hazard, and must be reset. The design of the fountain has not yet been finalized but it is estimated that \$60,000 of the amount requested would be used for the fountain and the remainder would be spent on signage and fencing. Additional fencing is planned for the planting beds, but this would be omitted if the cost of the fountain exceeds expectations. Paul Healy requested that a breakdown be provided on the cost of the proposed items.

Esther Sayer said the fountain draws people to Inn Street and the businesses in the area have been involved with raising funds for the restoration. Ann Lagasse said the fountain is an important component of the downtown and should be restored. Bill Ladas there is a great deal of silent support in the community for fountain restoration. Ghlee Woodworth said the fountain is a great way to celebrate local history. She volunteered to help with the interpretive signage.

#### **Replacement of Firehouse Center Trees**

Newburyport Parks Commission

\$37,950

Neither Bob Uhlig nor Lisë Reid was present to speak on behalf of the application.

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**Range Lights Community Sculpture Garden**

Newburyport Art Association

\$25,000

Elena Bachrach and Skip Motes spoke about the application. They said the Art Association undertook a major renovation in late 1990s. In a joint project with David Hall, a small building was moved to become an annex to the Art Association and an area adjacent to the Rail Trail was designated as conservation space as a part of the Chapter 91 license. Because its mission includes education and community outreach, the Art Association wishes to use this area as an outdoor sculpture park. The sculpture garden could be accessible from the Rail Trail and would include 12 sites for public art that would be a part of an annual exhibition. Site preparation has begun and the Art Association has raised approximately one-third of the funds necessary.

**Historic Wood-framed Window Replacement**

Firehouse Center for the Arts

\$93,000

Beth Falconer said the Board of the Firehouse Center wishes to replace 31 single-pane windows. Double-hung divided light windows would be installed in their place. Ms. Falconer said the windows are not energy efficient and some on the second floor leak. The windows are a drain on the operating budget due to heating costs. Structural damage might result if they not replaced. Board member George Ellison said a capital campaign is set to begin soon. The group applied for a \$610,000 grant from the Mass. Cultural Council and must raise at least \$300,000 in matching funds.

Linda Smiley asked if the windows are original. She said as an alternative the windows could be restored and storm windows added. She said the size of mullions is difficult to replicate in replacement windows and is important in maintaining the historic look of a structure.

**Open Space Reserve Fund**

City of Newburyport Open Space Committee

\$100,000

Mike Frye said the Open Space Committee is requesting that \$100,000 be added to the Open Space Reserves so that funds might be available if an open space parcel comes on the market. The reserves were drawn down by the acquisition of two lots on Curzon Mill Road. The additional funds would bring the balance in the reserve to approximately \$300,000.

**4. Minutes**

Mike Dissette moved to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2014 meeting as amended. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**5. Other Business**

The City Council must vote to appropriate the \$440,000 in undesignated funds before the end of the fiscal year in order for them to be available for the current award cycle. To accomplish this the Committee might wish make its recommendations in time for them to be on the agenda for May 26 City Council meeting. The deadline for the completion of deliberations would therefore be the end of the business day on May 20. There is a risk that due to the weightiness of some of

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the issues the council would not vote on the recommendations until after the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Mike Dissette moved to recommend to the City Council that the undesignated funds be moved to the general fund before the end of the current fiscal year. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**6. Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting of the CPC will take place on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Police Station Conference Room. An additional meeting would be scheduled for May 7 if necessary.

**7. Adjournment**

Mike Dissette moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.