

Community Preservation Committee

April 26, 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, Don Little, Jane Healey, Mary Lou Gagnon and Bob Uhlig. Also in attendance was Emily Wentworth.

3. General Business

• Minutes

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the April 12 meeting as amended. Bob Uhlig seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. 2011 Applications for Community Preservation Funds

Moseley to Maudslay Trail Connection Project

City of Newburyport, Office of Planning and Development

\$86,000

Geordie Vining said this project has been discussed for many years. Much of the trail would be located on Water Department land on both sides of the highway. The current director of the Water Department is in support of the project, which has not been the case in past years. While there are some existing trails in the area, they are on steep terrain. The proposed project would make the trails more accessible by rerouting them to follow the topography. Mike Dissette asked how this trail might link with the proposed walkway across the bridge. There may be an informal connection along a service road. Because the bridge has not been designed, there are many questions that have yet to be answered. Bob Uhlig asked if it would be advisable to phase the project due to limited funding. Mr. Vining said the project would be attractive to the State for funding because there is a connection to a State facility. The amount requested is for design work. It is estimated that \$400,000 would be needed for construction. While the State does not wish to fund the project as part of the bridge construction, there might be other transportation funds available. Mr. Vining said he would like the work to begin in the fall. The design for the trail must be completed in order that it might be incorporated into the design of the bridge. Bob Uhlig requested that the CPC receives separate figures for the portion of the project between Maudslay and Spring Lane.

Clipper City Rail Trail Extension Project

City of Newburyport, Office of Planning and Development

\$125,000

Geordie Vining said he has been working to secure rights-of way for the Rail Trail through the South End and along the waterfront. An easement has been obtained from the Coast Guard and he has been working with New England Development on other waterfront portions of the trail. National Grid requires that the design work for the trail be completed before it converts its

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license with the City to a 99-year lease. The amount requested is for the preliminary design for the entire length of the second phase of the trail. He is not sure at this point if the work will be phased. He said the corridor might ultimately not be as unified as the first phase of the Rail Trail. Bob Uhlig about the possibility of New England Development providing funding for the construction of the trail along the waterfront.

Open Space Fund

Newburyport Open Space Committee

\$100,000

Mary Harbaugh explained that the Open Space Committee does not control the timing of its projects. The projects are dependent on property and grants being available. The Committee requests that funds be reserved in order that they might be allocated to a particular project at a later date. The Committee must be able to take action when a desirable parcel comes on the market. Ms. Harbaugh said the area near Maudslay State Park and the Common Pasture are of particular interest. She said the Committee is charged with acquiring land for recreation in addition to conservation. Bob Uhlig asked if funding is needed for maintenance and management. Ms. Harbaugh said there might be a future need for signage or parking. Jane Healey asked about the cost associated with past projects. Ms. Harbaugh said it is difficult to arrive at a precise figure because money comes back into the Open Space Fund from reimbursement grants.

Joppa Park Renovation

Newburyport Parks Commission

\$65,000

Mike Dissette said the Parks Commission has withdrawn its application. Senate Bill 90 has not yet passed. The bill proposes changes to the law that would allow CPA funds to be used to rehabilitate parks that are already owned by municipalities.

5. Other Business

Mike Dissette said several quarterly reports have been received and included in the project files. The next regular meeting of the CPC is scheduled for May 24 at 7:00. The Affordable Housing Trust will provide its recommendations for that meeting.

6. Adjournment

Paul Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Don Little seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.