

Community Preservation Committee

April 26, 2016

Police Station Conference Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order

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, Paul Healy, Leah McGavern, Jane Healey, Sarah White and Steve Sawyer. Judith Grohe and Dan Koen were absent. Also in attendance was Kate Newhall-Smith.

3. FY 2017 Application Presentations for Community Preservation Funds

Gateway Trees

Friends of Newburyport Trees

\$17,000

Hugh Kelleher presented a project to restore the beauty of the city's streets through the planting of trees. The mission of the Friends of Newburyport Trees (FONT), a non-profit organization, is to raise funds to assist the DPS and the Parks Commission with the planning, planting, and maintenance of trees, specifically in public areas at the gateways to the city. The group is soliciting private donations and writing grant proposals for its work, which would begin at the triangular piece of land at Three Roads. The project would include the removal of some existing trees and their stumps. Fourteen trees of a 2-2.5" caliper would be planted. The watering of these trees for two years is included in the budget. The scope of the project, which originally called for 18 trees, has changed and the request has been reduced to \$15,926.

Belleville Congregational Church Restoration

Belleville Congregational Church Restoration Group

\$52,900

The goal of the church's restoration group is to complete the rear and west side of the parish hall, the west side of the chapel, the front of the meetinghouse and the four sides of the steeple. Norm Hansen said the buildings are a resource for the community, as many groups use them. The small congregation is not able to support this type of major project on its own.

Rehabilitation of the Perkins Printing and Engraving Plant

Historical Society of Old Newbury

\$14,082

Dave Mack said the Historical Society wishes to heat and air condition the printing and engraving plant in order that it might be used year round. The control of humidity is also a part of the plan. The Museum owns many items it is not able to display. The first floor of the structure is available as a meeting space for up to 50 people for all non-profits in the city. Of the \$20,000 needed for the project, \$5,500 has been raised thus far.

First Guardians Statue

The Lighthouse Preservation Society

\$60,000

James Hyland said three agencies merged to form the U.S. Coast Guard. The oldest of these is the Revenue Cutter Service, which had its first ship built in Newburyport under George Washington. This is the basis for Newburyport being recognized as the birthplace of the Coast Guard. The other two agencies were the Lifesaving Service and the Lighthouse Service. Funds from the lighthouse dinner program were used to host a competition for the creation of a bronze sculpture to recognize these three agencies. The sculpture would be placed on the waterfront at a location that has not yet been determined. The \$60,000 requested would be used for a reproducible one-third scale model of the final sculpture. Mr. Hyland said the runner up is very eager to be involved with the project. If the winner would be agreeable, two finished miniatures would be created instead of one. In addition to providing the basis for the final sculpture, the miniature could be used for reproductions that would be sold.

Newburyport Harbor Light Plum Island

Friends of Plum Island Light

\$12,000

The Friends of Plum Island Light is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring the Plum Island Lighthouse. While the City owns the lighthouse, this group has been responsible for maintaining it since 1996. John Vogel said the lighthouse was built in 1898 and is an important historic structure. The group has received a letter of support from Mayor Holaday for the painting of the structure, which was last done 20 years ago. The replacement of two windows is also a part of the preventative maintenance plan.

4. Minutes

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting. Jane Healey seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Sarah White abstaining.

5. Other Business

Mike Dissette contacted the State Ethics Commission about the need for a member of a board to recuse himself from voting or participating in the discussion of an application submitted by that board. He reported the conflict rules deal with public vs. private interests. A CPC member who also represents another board works in the public interest in both instances. No conflict would exist when public vs. public interests are involved. The members discussed how deliberations might be handled if a member were to recuse himself from the discussing a particular application.

Some members would not be able to attend the next regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting will be rescheduled for Monday, June 6.

Ethan Manning has confirmed the amount of the open space reserve.

6. Adjournment

Mike Dissette moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Jane Healey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.