

Community Preservation Committee

April 29, 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, Bob Uhlig and Dan Koen. Also in attendance was Kate Newhall-Smith.

3. Minutes

Mike Dissette moved to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2014 meeting as submitted. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Bob Uhlig abstaining.

4. Deliberations on FY 2015 Applications for Community Preservation Funds

Mike Dissette said the local surcharge and state match are expected to be \$653,278.00 and \$150,253.94 respectively, which along with undesignated funds of \$440,032.02 would bring the total estimated revenue to \$1,243,563.96. The undesignated funds include the city's portion of the \$25 million State surplus. Obligations totaling \$321,006.26 would reduce the amount of available funds to \$922,557.70. These obligations include payments of \$189,187.50 for the City Hall bond, \$119,818.76 for the open space bond and \$12,000 for administrative expenses. If a cushion of \$7,500 were to be retained, \$915,000 would be the target amount for total awards.

There is currently \$275,365.98 in the open space reserves and \$34,200.00 in the community housing reserves.

The CPC members deliberated over their recommendations to City Council for 15 applications for Community Preservation Funds. Three applications no longer were being considered. The members voted at the April 22 meeting to bond the World War Memorial Stadium Multi-Purpose Field Project and the Cherry Hill Parcel B Soccer Field Improvement. The Curzon Mill Road Open Space acquisition was funded from the open space reserves.

To begin the discussion, Mike Dissette asked for a show of hands on each project from the members who would support funding the application in any amount. Two projects, the Range Lights Community Sculpture Garden and the Firehouse Center Trees Replacement, had support from fewer than five members. Mr. Dissette explained this would not eliminate the project from consideration but would help focus the discussion.

Paul Healy said he would have difficulty supporting the Old South Church Trompe L'Oeil Ceiling Restoration because it would set a precedent by funding interior work. He said if the Belleville Church were awarded funds, it should be specified they were to be used for the painting of the exterior and the associated preparation work on the wood.

Linda Smiley said not enough research was done on the Firehouse windows. The applicant did not know if the windows were original and did not provide specifications for the replacement windows. Alternatives to replacement should have been considered. If the

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windows were original, the Historical Commission would wish them to be preserved. Bob Uhlig said the Committee should support work on a City-owned building.

Dan Koen said he would like the High School Exterior Woodwork Restoration to be fully funded, as the receipt of too little funding could delay the completion of the work. Linda Smiley said the group has been working hard to restore the woodwork in a historically accurate manner. Don Little agreed the project should be fully funded. Mr. Koen went on to say the fountain is not something in need of dire attention and there are not enough funds to support other projects that are more important in his eyes. Mike Dissette said it would be important to complete the fountain before the brickwork is done. The project would be more costly if it were delayed. He said in his opinion the replacement of the Firehouse Trees is not an immediate need. He added he was impressed with the quality of the application from the First Religious Society. He said the group has worked hard to obtain other funds and the church is a significant structure in the community. Linda Smiley said the need for the work is dire.

Mike Dissette moved to recommend the following expenditures to City Council:

Open Space Reserve Fund	50,000
YWCA Women's Residence Roof Replacement	54,000
Clipper City Rail Trail and Harborwalk Phase II.....	115,000
Belleville Congregational Church Restoration Project	15,000
Atkinson Common Historic Landscape Preservation Phase II	15,000
Range Lights Community Sculpture Garden	0
Newburyport High School Exterior Woodwork Restoration.....	100,000
Old South Church Trompe L'Oeil Ceiling Restoration.....	0
Down Payment Assistance and MLS for Affordable Resale Opportunities	75,000
Affordable Housing Trust Fund	220,000
Inn Street Fountain Restoration & Interpretive Signage	50,000
Replacement of Firehouse Center Trees	0
Green Street Tree Restoration Project.....	21,000
Firehouse Center for the Arts Historic Wood Framed Window Replacement	0
First Religious Society Steeple Restoration.....	200,000
Total Expenditure.....	915,000

Dan Koen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the CPC will take place on Tuesday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment

Mike Dissette moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.