

Community Preservation Committee

May 26, 2015

Police Station Conference Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Mike Dissette called a regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Don Little, Judith Grohe, Dan Koen, Paul Healy, Bob Uhlig, Jane Healey, Linda Smiley and Leah McGavern. Also in attendance was Kate Newhall-Smith.

3. General Business

Dan Koen moved to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2015 meeting. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Leah McGavern abstaining.

4. Deliberations on FY 2016 Application for Community Preservation Funds

The local surcharge and state match are expected to be \$702,128.56 and \$126,383.14 respectively, which along with undesignated funds of \$4,025.76, interest of \$1,950.50 and \$31,664.47, the city's portion of the State surplus, would bring the estimated revenue to a total of \$864,201.92. Obligations of \$303,856.26 would reduce the amount of available funds to \$562,296.16. These obligations include payments of \$178,687.50 for the City Hall bond, \$113,168.76 for the open space bond and \$12,000 for administrative expenses. There is currently \$225,365.88 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 21 applications for Community Preservation Funds. To begin the discussion, Mike Dissette asked for a show of hands from the members who would support funding an application in any amount. Ten projects had support from fewer than five members of the committee: Replacement of Firehouse Center Trees; Historic Tree Restoration Project, Phase II; Yankee Homecoming; Bradley Fuller Athletic Complex Improvement and Expansion; Newburyport High School Exterior Woodwork Restoration, Phase III; Old South Church Trompe L'oeil Ceiling Restoration; Congregation Ahavas Achim - Another 150 Years; Cushing House Fence Restoration; Range Lights Community Sculpture Garden; and Site Enhancements to the Waterfront Trust's Riverside Park & the NRA's New Park and West Lot. This preliminary vote would not eliminate any project from consideration but would serve to focus the discussion.

Mike Dissette asked if members could identify projects where certain considerations should be taken into account, such as the immediacy for the completion of the work or a minimum amount of funding that would be required for the project to take place. The members determined time is a factor for the Clipper City Rail Trail and Cherry Hill soccer fields. In addition the Belleville Church, the First Religious Society Meeting House and the Firehouse Center would experience continued deterioration if repairs were not made in a timely manner.

Several members described the way they would allocate the available funds. Linda Smiley commented the members of the Unitarian Church have been proactive about repairing the structure and the project is being done well. She said the housing rehabilitation program protects

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the city's neighborhoods. She also said while there is much public support for the Inn Street fountain, in her professional opinion urban fountains are not successful in our climate. Andy Port responded that the City Council has appropriated \$325,000 for the project, some of which has been spent on equipment that is waiting to be installed. Bob Uhlig pointed out that the City's projects total well more than the amount of available funds.

Paul Healy moved to fund the Kelleher Park Community Building Rehabilitation Feasibility and Design project with \$12,000 from the affordable housing reserves. Don Little seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Clipper City Rail Trail and Harborwalk, Phase II	70,000
Replacement of Firehouse Center Trees	0
Historic Tree Restoration Project, Phase II.....	0
Historic Landscape Preservation, Phase II.....	10,000
Yankee Homecoming.....	0
Open Space Reserve Fund	0
Bradley Fuller Athletic Complex Improvement and Expansion.....	0
Cherry Hill Parcel B Soccer Field Improvement.....	100,000
Inn Street Fountain Restoration & Interpretive Signage.....	50,000
NBPT High School Exterior Woodwork Restoration, Phase III	0
Belleville Congregational Church Restoration	18,000
Old South Church Trompe L'oeil Ceiling Restoration	0
Meeting House and Steeple Preservation Project	100,000
Congregation Ahavas Achim - Another 150 Years	0
Cushing House Fence Restoration	0
Newburyport Housing Rehabilitation Program	30,000
Meeting NBPT's Critical Housing Needs:	
Creating More Affordability at Deeper Levels.....	60,000
Firehouse Center for the Arts Roof Repair	108,000
Range Lights Community Sculpture Garden.....	0
Site Enhancements to the Waterfront Trust's	
Riverside Park & the NRA's New Park and West Lot.....	0

Judith Grohe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mike Dissette moved to recommend the City Council approve a payment of \$178,687.50 for the historic resources bond, \$113,168.76 for the open space bond and up to \$12,000 for administrative expenses. Judith Grohe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment

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