

Community Preservation Committee

July 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, Steve Sawyer and Dan Koen. Also in attendance was Kate Newhall-Smith.

3. Deliberations on FY17 Applications for Community Preservation Funds

The FY16 surcharge revenue and FY17 state match are expected to be \$749,945.00 and \$142,489.55 respectively, which along with the Community Preservation Fund balance of \$215,586.34 would bring the estimated amount of funds available to a total of \$1,108,020.89. Obligations of \$430,356.31 would reduce this amount to \$677,664.58. These obligations include payments of \$168,187.50 for the City Hall bond, \$104,591.31 for the open space bond, \$132,368.75 for the stadium bond, \$13,208.75 for the Cherry Hill bond and \$12,000 for administrative expenses. There is currently \$329,965.98 in the open space reserve and \$22,200.00 in the community housing reserve.

The CPC members deliberated over their recommendations to City Council for 14 applications for Community Preservation Funds. To begin the discussion, Mike Dissette asked for a show of hands from members who would support funding an application in any amount. Four projects had support from fewer than five members of the committee: Newburyport High School Exterior Woodwork Restoration Phase 3, Little River Trail System, Gateway Trees and First Guardians Statue. This preliminary vote would not eliminate any project from consideration but would serve to focus the discussion.

The Committee members agreed to set the amount to be awarded at \$650,000, which would leave a small cushion to be added to the general reserves. The amount requested for 14 projects totaled \$1,261,814. This amount was reduced to \$817,482 with the removal of four applications from the preliminary discussion.

Mike Dissette asked about the status of the YWCA at Hillside project. The Zoning Board approved the project at its July 12 meeting. Issues regarding the handling of stormwater have delayed the permitting from the Planning Board. The item will be on the agenda for the board's August 17 meeting.

The deliberations began with the YWCA at Hillside project. Don Little recused himself from the discussion on this application. Dan Koen said the project has great merit and should be fully funded. Jane Healey suggested the funds be combined with those to be awarded to the Affordable Housing Trust because the project is still in the permitting phase. A condition of funding would be that the units must remain affordable for 30 years. Mike Dissette moved to fully fund the YWCA at Hillside application. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Don Little abstaining.

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The deliberations continued with a discussion of other applications Committee members believe should be fully funded. Mike Dissette pointed out the Open Space Reserve was not funded the previous year. He said it would be short sighted to not add to the reserve so that funds would be available when the opportunity arises. Steve Sawyer and Sarah White spoke in favor of fully funding the Clipper City Rail Trail. Paul Healy reminded the members Geordie Vining stated an award on \$100,000 would not slow the project because the date of its anticipated completion has been delayed.

Leah McGavern suggested the Belleville Congregation Church Restoration be fully funded because the quoted prices for the work were reasonable and might be higher in the future. Sarah White said the Historical Commission supports funding the window work but views painting as maintenance rather than preservation.

Mike Dissette moved to recommend to the City Council the approval of awards totaling \$505,000 for the following applications:

Clipper City Rail Trail and Harborwalk Phase II	\$100,000
Newburyport High School Exterior Woodwork Restoration Phase 3	0
Meeting Newburyport's Priority Housing Needs	\$50,000
Newburyport Historic Structure Survey Update Project	\$15,000
The Track at Fuller Field – Improvements & Renovation Project	\$150,000
Joppa Park Renovation Project, Phase II	\$25,000
Open Space Reserve Fund	\$100,000
Little River Trail System	0
Gateway Trees	0
Belleville Congregational Church Restoration	\$39,000
Rehabilitation of the Perkins Printing and Engraving Plant	\$14,000
First Guardians Statue	0
Newburyport Harbor Light Plum Island	\$12,000

Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mike Dissette moved to recommend the City Council approve payments of \$168,187.50 for the City Hall bond, \$104,591.31 for the open space bond, \$132,368.75 for the stadium bond and \$13,208.75 for the Cherry Hill bond. Jane Healey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mike Dissette moved to recommend the City Council approve a payment of up to \$12,000 for administrative expenses. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mike Dissette said some conditions are placed on the awards, such as the amounts are contingent upon the receipt of the estimated revenue. He recommended the condition that all permits for new construction must be obtained prior to disbursement of funds be a standard one.

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4. Minutes

Dan Koen moved to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2016 meeting. Steve Sawyer seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Sarah White abstaining.

5. Other Business

Kate Newhall-Smith distributed her staff report and updates on projects.

6. Adjournment

Don Little moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Leah McGavern seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.