

Community Preservation Committee

March 26, 2013

Police Station Conference Room

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, Margaret Welch, Mary Lou Gagnon, Bob Uhlig, Cindy Zabriskie, Jane Healey and Don Little.

3. FY 2014 Applications for Community Preservation Funds

Mike Dissette said this is the second of three meetings at which applications for funding will be reviewed. Six applications are to be presented at tonight's meeting. After the presentation committee members will be able to ask questions of the applicant and questions from members of the audience will follow. Copies of the applications are on file in the Planning Office and may be reviewed by the public.

Joppa Park Renovation Project, Phase II

City of Newburyport, Parks Commission

\$40,000

Lisë Reed read of a list of project goals and benefits. She said the first phase of the Joppa Park renovation, the installation of a rose hedge and granite bollards, has been completed. Work planned for the second phase includes the addition of plazas with benches at the periphery of the park and the installation of the interpretive signs that were acquired with 2012 CPA funds. Ms. Reed said the work on the second phase of the project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2014. The State is providing funding for the improvement of the boat ramp. Mike Dissette asked if fundraising efforts, such as the sale of bricks, has been considered. Ms. Reed thought the sale of bricks would be a good idea.

Cherry Hill Parcel B Soccer Field Improvement

Newburyport Youth Soccer Association (NYSA)

\$200,000

Kevin Winn said NYSA has worked with the Parks Commission, the City and neighbors to develop plans for a new soccer field. The group has invested \$6,000 in surveying and \$15,000 in the design of the field, indicating its commitment to the project. Under a license agreement \$10,000 would be set aside for the maintenance of the field each year. The license, which is for both Parcel B and Parcel C, would be in addition to the funds used to maintain the existing fields. Mike Dissette asked about the field being used by other teams. Mr. Winn said the Newburyport High School varsity and junior varsity teams use the field in addition to one at the high school. The new field would allow other sports teams to use the high school field. He said NYSA believes the field could be installed for \$500,000 and \$300,000 is being sought from another source. Paul Healy asked about a contingency plan if the other funding is not received. Mr. Winn said the league is considering the sale of gear and naming rights and would ask local businesses for support. Jane Healy asked about the possibility of the work being phased. Mr. Winn said the parking lot could be constructed in a first phase and the field in a second. He said NYSA would like the field to be constructed in 2014 and it must not be used for one year. He

added that 1,000 children are involved in the league and without a new field some would need to be cut from the program. Lisë Reed said the Parks Commission fully supports the project. She said NYSA works well with the neighbors and takes good care of the fields.

Atwood Park Improvement

Friends of Atwood Park

\$40,000

Rob Rothberg said the friends group is seeking funds to improve Atwood Park. He said in the south end yards are small, making parks especially important to residents, but the neighborhood is underserved. The loss of the Brown School will increase the need for a park. He said the fence around the tennis court was taken down after a tree fell and the grass is in poor condition. The residents have tried to make their own improvements and have hosted movies in the park in an effort to raise funds. The members of the group will work to keep project costs low by planting the trees themselves. The Parks Commission would oversee the project. Greg Earls, City Councilor for Ward 2, was unable to attend the presentation but sent a letter of support. Lisë Reed said the City has been unable to fund the repairs necessary at Atwood Park and the neighbors have been working to get improvements made on their own. The partnership with the neighbors will help ensure the improvements would be maintained. Paul Healy said the project is a good definition of community preservation. Tomas Havrda, 9 Spring Street, and Dick Monahan, 4 School Street, spoke in favor of the project, saying it would benefit the many children that live in the neighborhood.

Kelleher Park Playground

Central Congregational Church

\$6,000

Bruce Mennin spoke about the plans to replace the playground that was removed three years ago at the subsidized public housing development after it became unsafe for children. The nearest playground now is at Moseley Pines. The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$29,000 and \$35,000. The work is to be divided into two phases, with the first phase taking place next fall. During the first phase benches and landscaping would be installed. Youth groups from the church have hosted dinners to raise money and \$4,000 was taken in from the sale of donated artwork. A portion of the funds raised will be reserved for ongoing maintenance. Cindy Zabriskie commented that project might also fit into the affordable housing category. Mike Dissette applauded the breadth of community involvement in the project.

Bartlet Mall/Parks Commission/Newburyport Parks Conservancy

Bartlet Mall Commission

\$15,400

Walt Thompson said the Bartlet Mall Commission is seeking funds to help beautify the frog pond and improve the quality of its water. The commission has received \$2,500 for a self-priming pump and new water lines to the fountain. The new pump would add volume to the water and the Commission is planning to install underwater aerators. Jon Higgins has developed the P-Pod system that would address the high amount of phosphorus in the pond. The DPS has installed cameras to help determine the locations at which storm water is entering the pond. The commission is planning to raise funds by installing memorial benches for \$3,000 or bench plaques for \$1,000. Lisë Reed spoke in favor of the project. Don Little asked if dredging would impact the aerators. Mr. Thompson said there are no plans to dredge the pond.

Community Preservation Committee
March 26, 2013

Open Space Fund – Reserve

City of Newburyport, Open Space Committee

\$100,000

Michael Frey said the Open Space Committee would like funds to be added to the reserve in order that they might be available when a parcel is offered for sale. The amount currently in the reserve would be just a small part of what would be needed to purchase a large parcel. The reserve also helps to attract funds from other sources. The committee does not have a specific project in mind at this time. Mike Dissette asked Kate Newhall-Smith to check on the amount of interest that is accruing on the funds in reserve.

4. Minutes

Mary Lou Gagnon moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2013 meeting as submitted. Don Little seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Other Business

Mike Dissette said that if times allows, a discussion should take place at the next meeting about the status of the Masonic Temple preservation restriction.

Don Little asked if it would be appropriate for the Parks Commission to prioritize projects in the same way that the Affordable Housing Trust does. Bob Uhlig said he has been speaking about priorities with Andy Port and he is prepared to provide input during the deliberations.

The next meeting of the Community Preservation Committee is scheduled for April 23 at 7:00 p.m. Six projects are to be presented at that meeting.

Kate Newhall-Smith said the June 25 meeting would have to be rescheduled, as a special election is to be held that day.

6. Adjournment

Paul Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Mary Lou Gagnon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.