

Community Preservation Committee

October 25, 2011

Police Station Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Dissette at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Paul Healy, Judith Grohe, Don Little and Margaret Welch. Dianne Eppa was also in attendance.

3. General Business

• Minutes

Mike Dissette moved to approve the minutes of the September 26 meeting as submitted. Margaret Welch seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Public Hearing

Mike Dissette said the CPC is required by statute to at least one time during the year invite the community to discuss the needs, possibilities and resources of the City for open space, historic preservation and affordable housing. He said the committee does not seek out projects but rather is a grant giving operation that receives requests for appropriations and makes awards based on the requirements of the statute.

Kerry Lagueux, member of the Open Space Committee, said part of what makes the City beautiful is its open space. He said the Open Space Committee is grateful for the past support of the CPC, especially because matching funds are helpful securing other grants. The open space reserve is important because a quick response is often needed when an opportunity presents itself. He said there are 100 acres in the Common Pasture that still require protection and that while the Open Space Committee has some projects in development, there is no specific information to be shared with the CPC at the current time. Paul Healy asked about the 38 acres that had been a part of the Oleo Trust property. Andy Port said the Essex County Greenbelt Association is in the process of reviewing the conservation restriction. He spoke of plans for the construction of a CVS on the Woodman property on Storey Avenue. In exchange for the rezoning of two residential lots, the City would be deeded 25 acres of open space.

5. Other Business

Mike Dissette said the amount of local revenue and State matching funds was \$18,500 more than expected. Dianne Eppa has been working to prepare the application for the next round of funding.

The board of the Masonic Temple approved the preservation restriction and Al Lavendar signed the document. The Massachusetts Historic Commission has not yet reviewed the restriction and the copy that was signed will probably not be the final version.

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Dianne Eppa said most of the funding recipients have returned their grant letters.

Updates were received about the following projects: Caleb Cushing Gravesite Accessibility, Powder House Restoration, Belleville Church Restoration, Custom House Maritime Museum Roof Restoration, Old Hill Burying Ground Gravestone Restoration, the Rail Trail, World War Memorial Stadium, Inn Street, Milk Street Affordable Housing, St. Anna's Chapel, Lower Bartlet Wharf Conservation and the YWCA Affordable Housing.

The Milk Street Affordable Housing Project might be eligible for an energy rebate for the installation of a new furnace. If the rebate were received the Newburyport Housing Authority would like to apply the remaining funds to a new kitchen floor. Paul Healy said the City Council approved the funds to be used for a furnace. Judith Grohe said the Authority should be able to use the rebate however it would like. Mike Dissette said if an applicant receives funding from an additional source, it is not necessary to return the CPC monies. Judith Grohe moved that the Newburyport Housing Authority be allowed to use the rebate in any manner it chooses. Mike Dissette seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Mike Dissette said the rebate would not be counted against the CPA funds, as the rebate would not have been obtained without the purchase of the furnace.

Andy Port said the Moseley to Maudslay Connection Project has been sent to the City Council Budget and Finance subcommittee. While the Whittier Bridge has been placed on the fast track, progress is not expected to be rapid and the City intends to apply for CPA funding for the connection project next year.

Andy Port said the Inn Street lighting project has gone out to bid. The Mayor will supplement the funds if needed.

6. Upcoming Meetings

The next regular meeting of the CPC is scheduled for November 22 at 7:00 p.m. There will be no meeting in December.

7. Adjournment

Paul Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Judith Grohe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.