

**Community Preservation Committee**  
Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2011

**1. Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee was called to order by Chairman Mike Dissette at 7:10 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Paul Healy, Don Little, Anne Gardner and Bob Uhlig. Also in attendance were Emily Wentworth, Geordie Vining and Andy Port.

**3. General Business**

• Approval of Minutes

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2010 meeting. Bob Uhlig seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Anne Gardner abstaining.

**4. Project Updates**

• High School Stadium Renovation Project

Geordie Vining, manager of the stadium renovation project, said four design teams are currently being interviewed and the selection should be made by the end of the month. The design team will develop plans, cost estimates and specifications for a bid package. The first phase of the project will focus on the repair of the concrete on the south side of the structure. The first phase will also include interpretive signage, the replacement of lighting and an upgrade to the speaker system. The goal is to have the work done during the summer school vacation. The City has received \$262,000 from RESTORE. In a letter dated January 5, 2011 Geordie Vining requested that the Committee approve the distribution of the \$150,000 in allocated CPA funds.

Mike Dissette requested that the CPA be mentioned in the interpretive signage. He said the original scope of the project was a \$1.5 million restoration of the entire stadium. He said the Committee conditioned the release of the CPA funds on the existence of a financially viable project. He said the reduced scope is for the side of the stadium for which the use of CPA funds is appropriate. He asked Committee members if they agree the project is financially feasible. Anne Gardner said she had been concerned about the lack of good management but she is satisfied now that the City is managing the project. She moved to release the \$150,000 in CPA funds to the City. Don Little seconded the motion. Paul Healy suggested that the transfer be delayed until the plans have been developed in order to determine if the City has the funding to complete the work. Geordie Vining said he would like to know the money that has been promised would be received and the transfer would help determine the budget for the project. Anne Gardner said she would like to show support for the project and Geordie as the project manager. Mike Dissette said the transfer would be useful in attracting other financial support for the project. He said in his opinion the fundraising has been successful, the project is viable and the CPA funds should be released. Bob Uhlig requested that regular updates on the status of the project be provided to the Committee. Paul Healy amended the motion to include a condition that the transfer be contingent upon the receipt of a plumbing waiver. He asked what would

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happen to the funds if the City were to be unable to move forward with the project. He also said the CPA funds should only be spent on the restoration of the structure. Geordie Vining said the design phase is being funded by donations. Paul Healy withdrew his amendment. Anne Gardner requested a vote on the original motion without the amendment. The motion was unanimously approved.

Emily Wentworth said the original vote also included a condition that a preservation restriction be placed on the structure. She said this condition should be removed, as the Massachusetts Historical Commission would not agree to hold the restriction and the Newburyport Historical Commission would not be able to hold it against the City.

- **Open Space and Recreation Plan Update**

Andy Port said a survey on open space and recreation has been created. Currently accurate maps of the City's open spaces are being developed. An application for funding is being planned for the next grant cycle.

- **Affordable Housing Trust**

Emily Wentworth said one affordable unit at Maritime Landing was lost last spring, but no other units have recently been lost. Four units at Maritime Landing are outside of their marketing period, but there is currently no incentive for the owners to sell. One unit has sold at the Foundry and three are under contract.

- **Plum Island Beach Management Plan**

Anne Gardner asked if the erosion at Plum Island impacted the planned access areas. Emily Wentworth said attempts are being made to amend the plans for the stairs to make them modular.

## **5. Quarterly Reports**

CPC members received the following reports:

- Clipper City Rail Trail Quarterly Report
- Masonic Temple Restoration Project Quarterly Report
- Plum Island Beach Management Plan Priority Recommendations Project Quarterly Report
- Newburyport Tree Restoration Project Quarterly Report
- Congregation Ahavas Achim Project Quarterly Report
- Oak Hill Cemetery Tree Restoration Project Completion Report
- Old Hill Burying Ground Restoration Project Quarterly Report
- Custom House Maritime Museum Preliminary Feasibility Study Quarterly Report
- Powder House Quarterly Report
- Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust Annual Report

## **6. Upcoming Meetings**

The next regular meeting of the CPC will be held on February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Applications for 2011 CPA funds are due February 17 at 4:00 p.m.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.