

## **Community Preservation Committee**

April 25, 2017

Police Station Conference Room

Minutes

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Mike Dissette called a regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Jane Healey, Don Little, Paul Healy, Jim McCarthy, Sarah White, Dan Koen and Steve Sawyer. Also in attendance was Kate Newhall-Smith. Mike Dissette announced that Paul O'Brien has resigned from the committee.

### **3. FY 2018 Application Presentations for Community Preservation Funds**

This is the second of three meetings at which applicants will summarize their grant requests and answer questions from the committee members. Deliberations on the applications are scheduled for June 13.

#### **YWCA Women's Residence**

##### **YWCA Greater Newburyport**

**\$26,500**

John Feehan said the structure that houses the YWCA Women's Residence was built in 1790. Women of limited income who receive no subsidies occupy the residence. Due to the low rents, no funds are available for capital projects. The roof on the structure was replaced two years ago, which resolved any water issues. Funds are currently being sought for the painting of the exterior of the structure. The YWCA requested funds from the Affordable Housing Trust and was advised to instead apply for a CPA grant.

#### **Restoration of Cushing Carriage House Windows**

##### **Historical Society of Old Newbury**

**\$14,500**

Jane Wild spoke about the application from the Historical Society of Old Newbury. The carriage house dates from 1810 and was original to the Cushing property. The Window Woman of New England would perform the work. The work must be done according to the requirements of the Fruit Street Historic District, in which the structure is located. A preservation restriction would be required for the structure if one were not already in place.

#### **Central Congregational Steeple Project**

##### **Central Congregational Church**

**\$100,000**

Amantha Moore said American Steeple and Tower surveyed the steeple and determined that while work should be performed, the problems are not yet structural in nature. The cost to repair the steeple, soffits and trim has been estimated at \$286,000. A capital campaign is underway and funds are being sought from the Arakelian Foundation and the Institution for Savings. The project would include the installation of energy efficient lighting on all sides of the steeple. A

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CPA grant would require the placement of a preservation restriction on the structure. The congregation is interested in placing solar panels on the flat-roofed rear addition to the structure.

**People's United Methodist Church Weathervane Restoration**

**People's United Methodist Church**

**\$20,000**

Matt Willis-Goode, pastor of the People's United Methodist Church, described the plans to replace the replica of the Angel Gabriel weathervane on the church's steeple. The original weathervane was constructed in 1840 and is now housed at the Smithsonian Institution. In 1965 the weathervane was the first religious artifact to be pictured on a U.S. postage stamp. The steeple itself has structural problems. Some funds have already been expended on the work to repair the steeple and replace the weathervane. The CPA funds being requested would be used to complete both the weathervane and steeple projects. The combined estimate for these projects is \$40,000 and is likely to increase. The congregation, neighbors and the Newburyport Five have contributed funds for the projects. The committee members informed Pastor Willis-Goode that the replacement of a replica weathervane would not be an allowable use of CPA funds. They advised him to use the funds the church has on hand for the weathervane replacement and to submit an alternative scope for CPA funds for the steeple repairs alone.

**4. General Business**

**Plum Island Light: Request to Modify Project Scope**

The work to repair the Plum Island Light cost less than anticipated. The applicant is requesting to use the remaining funds for the painting of the replica shed. The members agreed this work would not meet the requirements of the CPA. Dan Koen moved to approve the use of CPA funds for the painting of the replica shed. Steve Sawyer seconded the motion. The motion failed.

**Custom House Roof Repair**

Ken Jackman said the Custom House Maritime Museum has committed its funds to a brick crossing of the Rail Trail, an irrigation system for the lawn and a heating system. While it has been known for some time rain leaks into the museum, the situation quickly became worse in January and the extent of the problem was not fully understood until recently. The ceiling in the Hall of Ships is showing signs of damage and the artifacts are being threatened. The committee may accept an application out of cycle for emergency situations at its discretion. Jim McCarthy disclosed he was on the board of the Maritime Society for seven years. Sarah White moved to accept the emergency application and consider it with the current round of grant applications. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Dan Koen abstaining.

**Minutes**

Dan Koen moved to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017 meeting as submitted. Jim McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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**Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting of the Community Preservation Committee will take place on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium.

**Letters of Support**

Many letters of support were received by email for the restoration of the People's United Methodist Church weathervane and were printed for inclusion in the file.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.