

Community Preservation Committee

May 9, 2017

City Hall Auditorium

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Mike Dissette called a regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Jane Healey, Don Little, Paul Healy, Jim McCarthy and Dan Koen. Sarah White and Steve Sawyer were absent.

3. FY 2018 Application Presentations for Community Preservation Funds

This is the third 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.

Fuller Field Track Renovation – Phase 2

Newburyport Parks Department

\$150,000

Lisë Reid summarized the improvements to the track at Fuller Field. The first phase of the project included the installation of a natural turf infield. Funds are now being sought for the second phase of the project. In this phase a 1000-seat grandstand would be constructed and a walkway would be installed around the perimeter of the track. A parking area with a drop-off zone and turn around would be added, as would a digital scoreboard and fencing. The cost of these amenities is estimated at \$1 million. Ms. Reid said she has received much positive feedback about the first phase of improvements to the track. The Institution for Savings has committed \$20,000 per year to the maintenance of the facility. Tim Conway of the Friends of Newburyport Track thanked the committee members for their recommendation for funding in the last grant cycle and said the track receives a great deal of use. The second phase of the project would turn the track into a state of the art facility. A letter from Chris Kealey was read that stated the track is an outstanding resource for the community and is used daily by many of its members. There is a \$370,000 gap in funding. The first priority for phase two would be the grandstand, which has a price tag of \$280,000. The walkway would cost \$132,000 and would be the second item of importance.

Clipper City Rail Trail – Phase 3

Office of Planning & Development

\$75,000

Geordie Vining said the third phase of the Rail Trail would run along Parker Street and would connect the pathway constructed in the first and second phases of the project. He said the area is a complex one with competing uses. It is currently inhospitable to pedestrians and bicyclists. Funds are needed to hire traffic engineers and to determine the public corridor. A Smart Growth

Community Preservation Committee
May 9, 2017

District exists on both sides of Route 1. The development of the trail would help pedestrians move safely from one side to the other.

Gateway Trees – Phase 2

Newburyport Tree Commission
\$13,000

Jane Neidling said the City removed 156 street trees last year. The Tree Commission plants 30 street trees each fall and spring. The group has changed its methodology. It is now installing larger trees and hiring a professional contractor to plant them and water them for two years. This increases the survival rate of the trees to 95%. The group's current goal is to plant 20 trees per year on High Street for the next five years.

Evergreen Golf Course Acquisition

Office of Planning & Development
\$3,000,000

Andy Port sent an email to the Committee requesting a continuance of several months. He stated in the email that the Water Department is in the process of testing the property's capacity to support a viable public water supply. The result of this testing will determine the amount of land the city might wish to acquire to protect the water supply.

4. General Business

The People's United Methodist Church has submitted an alternative scope of work for the application for funds to restore its weathervane.

5. Minutes

Dan Koen moved to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2017 meeting. Jane Healey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Community Preservation Committee will take place on Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Police Station conference room.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.