

**Community Preservation Committee Meeting**  
**August 22, 2017**  
**7pm**  
**Police Station Conference Room**

Present: Mike Dissette, Paul Healy, Dan Koen, Don Little, Jim McCarthy, Steve Sawyer, and Jane Healey

Mr. Dissette called a regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee to order at 7:10pm.

**1. Tree Commission Proposal – Modify/expand scope of Green Street Tree planting project**

The Tree Commission has requested to do an adjustment in the scope of the Green Street FY 13 and 15 tree projects. Cris Miller, of the Tree Commission, was present to explain the proposal. Mr. Miller said the Green Street Trees project had been going on for years and no one was sure how much would eventually be accomplished. 39 trees have been planted so far. He said that was fewer than anticipated, because some owners, like the funeral home and attorneys' offices, didn't want a tree in front of their property. He mentioned that they were able to accomplish contracts under budget and didn't need funds that were originally allocated to police details leaving them with extra money. Mr. Miller said projections were estimated about \$11K. The Tree Commission was hoping to use the excess funding for purchase and care of trees in the general vicinity of Green Street, off Washington, and Harrison Streets. They found 19 places where trees could potentially be planted in this vicinity. The Tree Commission is also working on gateways such as High Street, Graf Road, Low Street, Merrimac Street, and Water Street. Other funds would be used towards citizens' requests. Mr. Dissette asked how High Street trees have been funded. Mr. Miller said that it was usually grants but the City has started contributing funding, along with the Bromfield Trust, Morrill Foundation, etc. He said they have more momentum now. They hope to use this funding for spring plantings on High Street. Mr. Dissette asked about the \$11K that was left over in the CPC grants. Mr. Miller said that the first grant has been closed and the second has the remaining funds. Mr. Dissette said that the project was named the Green Street Project and as a technical matter asked would it be allowable for the commission to re-appropriate the money. He felt a single order to the Council may be required to expand the scope to Harris and Washington Streets. On the other hand, he questioned if the Council would want to review it. The Board discussed times in the past where they've said no to expansion of projects. Mr. Dissette noted that the historic landscape isn't limited to one street; it's a compliment to the Green Street alley. Mr. Miller said that from a historic perspective it's logical to continue on from Green Street. Mr. Dissette asked when the money would expect to be used. Mr. Miller said next spring. Mr. Dissette noted that there would be time to re-appropriate the funds if the group decided to go that way. Mr. Koen said that the application was for trees. Mr. Healy wanted to clarify that the intent was Washington and Harris. Mr. Miller said it was, and they hope to buy 14 -15 trees or as far as the money will take them. It would be about two blocks on either side. They were using Princeton disease-resistant elm where there are no power lines. Mr. Miller said it costs about \$640 to plant, water, and maintain one tree. Mr. Koen suggested being liberal with the scope and allowing them to get to 14-15 trees since they've been such good custodians of the trees. He suggested including allowing Washington and Harris. Ms. Healey noted that the award letter specifically called out Green Street. Mr. Healy did not want to allow them that much flexibility. Ms. Healey felt they were changing the scope of the project if they were expanding. Mr. McCarthy noted that Harris and Washington are very open and didn't think the scope should be unlimited. Mr. Dissette thought it would appropriately augment the alley to have the side streets planted. Mr. McCarthy motioned to allow the excess funding in the Green Street Trees project to be used for the planting and care of trees within two blocks from Green Street on either side

of Harris and Washington Streets as part of the historic landscape. Mr. Koen seconded and all members voted in favor.

## **2. General Business**

Dan Koen made the motion to approve the minutes of the 6/13 meeting. Paul Healy seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

Kate completed the CP-3 reporting prior to her leaving for maternity leave.

The draft application was reviewed. Mr. Healy wanted to require that a Preservation Restriction be completed within a timeframe as a part of the application. Mr. Dissette said that the process has been getting longer with the state for approvals. Ms. Healey said that sometimes applicants are surprised about the costs of doing a Preservation Restriction and suggested making it known. Mr. Healy wanted a note and a plan for the restriction. Mr. Little agreed. Mr. Dissette suggested having a separate historic information project sheet, including the State's standard Preservation Restriction form, required and not discretionary. They would revisit this at the October meeting. Mr. Koen wanted the requested amount to be listed on the first page.

Quarterly reports were submitted as part of the staff report.

## **3. Upcoming Schedule**

The public informational meeting was scheduled for 10/24/17. Dianne will take care of posting the legal ad.

The September meeting will be left on the schedule and cancelled if there are no items to discuss.

## **4. Miscellaneous**

Mr. McCarthy mentioned he was resigning from the Planning Board effective October 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dissette mentioned the possibility of staying on the board as an at-large member.

Mr. Little mentioned that the City Council added two additional conditions to their recommended grants. The Clipper City Rail Trail grant was conditioned so the funding is only used for the portion located in Newburyport and the Cushing Carriage House project was conditioned to require public benefit and a Preservation Restriction.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm