

Community Preservation Committee

September 27, 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 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Mike Dissette, Paul Healy, Judith Grohe, Don Little, Jane Healey, Mary Lou Gagnon, Margaret Welch and Bob Uhlig. Also in attendance was Dianne Eppa.

3. General Business

Minutes

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the August 23 meeting as submitted. Judith Grohe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Status of City Council Action

At the August 23 joint meeting of the City Council Planning and Development and Budget and Finance subcommittees, Councilor Bob Cronin expressed concern about parking for YWCA affordable housing units. The item was moved out of committee without a recommendation and the funding was later approved at a City Council meeting.

The City Council tabled the vote on the Moseley to Maudslay Connection Project. The CPC had recommended that \$45,000 be awarded for design fees for a recreational path along the river that would connect the two parks. The trail would connect at Ferry Road to the shared-use path that is planned for the east side of Whittier Bridge. Andy Port said that residents expressed concern about parking near Ferry Road and the Moseley Woods Commission is concerned about erosion, public safety and the cost of maintenance. The State has made a verbal commitment to allow legal access under the bridge and the project is not as time sensitive as was first thought. The planning for the bridge is six months to one year behind schedule. Mr. Port said the City plans to apply for funding for the east-west connection under the bridge again next year, allowing time to address the concerns of the City Council and residents. He said the funds would be better used for the second phase of the Clipper City Rail Trail. He said progress is being made on that project, which entering the design phase and was not fully funded by the CPC this year. Don Little said he was not pleased with the way the issue was handled by the City Council. The subcommittees voted in favor of the project at their joint meeting but did not inform the full Council of this action. He said he is not in favor of using the money for the Rail Trail and if CPC members had known the money would be available, they might have applied it elsewhere. Paul Healy said the funds should be added to the open space reserve, where it could be used for land acquisition or the Rail Trail as needed. Andy Port said progress has been made with the Coast Guard and New England Development. He wants the funds to be available for a comprehensive plan. Geordie Vining said he is optimistic that progress will be made with National Grid and he is currently reaching out to other abutters to learn where there might be opposition to the trail.

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The preliminary design plans, which may be completed within several months, would be used to negotiate a lease with National Grid. Mr. Vining said the funds are not currently needed for the Moseley to Maudslay Connection Project because more time is needed to resolve political and planning issues. Bob Uhlig said that \$125,000 was requested for the Rail Trail in the last round of funding and the addition of \$45,000 to the \$53,000 that was previously recommended would still amount to less than the original request. Don Little said that while he approves of the withdrawal of the recommendation for funding for the Moseley to Maudslay Connection Project, he is not in favor of reassigning the funding to the Rail Trail. The other applicants have not had the opportunity to request the additional funding and the list of applications as a whole should be considered. Bob Uhlig said the City has benefited from the first phase of the Rail Trail and he does not object to the use of the funds. Andy Port said the Rail Trail and the Moseley to Maudslay Connection are the same type of projects. Paul Healy moved to inform the City Council that while the CPC supports the Moseley to Maudslay Connection, it withdraws its recommendation for \$45,000 in funding for the project and recommends that these funds be used for the second phase of the Rail Trail. Jane Healey seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Don Little voting in opposition.

5. Other Business

Mike Dissette said he attended a celebration of the 10th anniversary of initial Community Preservation Act.

The next meeting of the CPC is scheduled for October 25. The annual public hearing will take place at that time.

6. Adjournment

Paul Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Mary Lou Gagnon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.