

## DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Committee on Community Services Committee - 27 February, 2024

Meeting Recording: [here](#)

### **Members Present:**

Cllr. Connie Preston, Chair - present  
Cllr. Ben Harman - present  
Cllr. Jennie Donahue - Zoom

### **Other Participants Present:**

Andrea Weetman (Zoom), Kristen Donahue,  
Caroline McCarthy, Kim Turner, Shanna Sartori,  
Katerine Moran, Peter Carzasty, Paula Estey

### **Agenda:**

- APPT00463\_02\_12\_2024 Andrea Weetman 183 High St. Newburyport Community Preservation Act Committee 3/15/2027
- APPT00464\_02\_12\_2024 Kristen Donahue 16 Olive St. Newburyport Library Board of Directors 3/15/2027
- APPT00465\_02\_12\_2024 Caroline McCarthy 4 Coombs Cir. Newburyport Library Board of Directors 3/15/2027
- APPT00467\_02\_12\_2024 Kim Turner 27 High St. Newburyport Public Arts Committee 03/15/2025
- APPT00469\_02\_12\_2024 Shanna Sartori 2 Garden St. Newburyport Public Arts Committee 3/15/2025
- APPT00470\_02\_12\_2024 Katherine Moran 9 Garden St. Newburyport Public Arts Committee 3/15/2025
- APPT00471\_02\_12\_2024 Peter Carzasty 35 Temple St. Newburyport Public Arts Committee 3/15/2025
- APPT00473\_02\_12\_2024 Paula Estey 3 Pine St. Newburyport Cultural Council Liaison on Public Arts Committee 3/1/2027
- ORDR00515\_11\_27\_2023 Gift Acceptance Morrill Foundation \$110,000

Meeting started at 5:30pm

#### **1. APT463: Andrea Weetman Community Preservation Act Committee 3/15/2027**

- Has lived in NBPT for 10 years with her husband and twin daughters.
- Many years of service on Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF) retiring as President in Jan and still on the board.
- Wanted to continue to give back to the community and the Mayor suggested CPC. There is a lot of crossover with the NEF allocation committee.
- Has a particular interest in the affordable housing and open space elements of CPC.
- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the appointment. Cllr. Preston was the second.
- Committee voted 2-0 to approve APPT0463 to the full council (Donahue not yet present).

#### **2. APT464: Kristen Donahue Library Board of Directors 3/15/2027**

- Lived in Newburyport for 16 years.
- Spanish teacher at Governor's academy.
- Has used the library for many years with her children.
- Has met with the Head Librarian and has a friend on the Library Board currently.
- Aware of issues with the archival center. Will focus on making sure that the volunteers and staff need to feel valued and welcome.

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- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the appointment. Cllr. Preston was the second.
- Committee voted 2-0 to approve APPT0464 to the full council (Donahue not yet present).

#### **3. APT465: Caroline McCarthy Library Board of Directors 3/15/2027**

- Haved lived in Newburyport for 15 years.
- Professional librarian at Phillips Academy. Patron, volunteer and substitute at the library for many years.
- Knows that the board cannot manage staff and the consortium lays out the ramifications of the collections so the board is limited in ability to impact the archival volunteer situation.
- Hopes to help the board understand the technicalities of the work that librarians do.
- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the appointment. Cllr. Preston was the second.
- Committee voted 2-0 to approve APPT0465 to the full council (Donahue not yet present).

#### **4. APT469: Shanna Sartori PAC 3/15/2025**

- Appointment needs to be updated to 3/15/2027 - Cllr. Preston will work with the Clerk's office.
- Moved to Newburyport in Sep 2023. Site Manager for Historic New England at Spencer Pierce Little Farm.
- Actor in NYC for 13 years and recently graduated with an MS in Art History. Thesis was in urban renewal and art placement.
- Excited to see so much art and sculptures in Newburyport public spaces such as the rail trail.
- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the appointment. Cllr. Preston was the second.
- Committee voted 2-0 to approve APPT0469 to the full council (Donahue not yet present).

#### **5. APT470: Katherine Moran PAC 3/15/2025**

- Appointment needs to be updated to 3/15/2027 - Cllr. Preston will work with the Clerk's office.
- New to Newburyport in September 2023.
- Graduated in May from Northeastern University with a degree in design.
- Has done art her entire life and now working on design with an architect in Beverly
- Her goal is to bring the community together in outside spaces by using art.
- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the appointment. Cllr. Preston was the second.
- Committee voted 3-0 to approve APPT0470 to the full council.

#### **6. APT471: Peter Carzasty PAC 3/15/2025**

- Appointment needs to be updated to 3/15/2027 - Cllr. Preston will work with the Clerk's office.
- Raised in CT, schooled in Boston and lived in NYC for many years. Moved to NBPT 7 years ago.
- Worked for many years in communications, narrative story telling, NY municipal art society, NY public art fund and NY Creative Time organization. Worked on the revitalization of Grand Central Station.
- Volunteers at Anna Jacques Hospital and is a member of the steering committee of the NBPT Documentary Film Festival where he created the YES (young emerging filmmaker showcase) award as a prize for young filmmakers.
- Looking for grassroots efforts to give back to the community. He wants to find out what the community wants to do with public art.
- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the appointment. Cllr. Preston was the second.
- Committee voted 3-0 to approve APPT0471 to the full council.

**7. APT472: Cynthia Schartman Cultural Council Liaison on PAC 3/1/2027**

- She has lived in NBPT for 26 years with her husband and 2 children. She has worked in an architectural office during that time. She is on the board of Tinkerhaus and participates in the sculpture program at Maudsley.
- She has been involved in art her whole life. Her degree is in art history with a graduate degree in museum studies. She is on the curatorial committee for the Portsmouth Art Museum.
- Current member of the Cultural Council. They do not receive a lot of applications for 3D art but more performance and literature work. She wants to catalyze more interest in 3D art to create spaces in the city for a living experience of history. Public art is a wonderful way to do that.
- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the appointment. Cllr. Donahue was the second.
- Committee voted 3-0 to approve APPT0472 to the full council.

**8. APT473: Paula Estey Cultural Council Liaison on PAC 3/1/2027**

- Has been a member of the Cultural Council for 4 years. Steward of 4 plots on the rail trail - 1 art, 2 gardens and 1 birch tree grove. Runs a non-profit in Newburyport with an emphasis on art and the environment.
- She participated on the team that formed the PAC rules and is very passionate about public art as a vehicle for cultural conversations.
- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the appointment. Cllr. Donahue was the second.
- Committee voted 3-0 to approve APPT0473 to the full council.

**9. APT467: Kim Turner PAC 03/15/2025**

- Has lived in Newburyport for 13 years.
- Trained as a landscape architect. She has sited and installed public art for municipalities and private clients in the past.
- Felt the policy was important for the city due to her time as Chair of the Parks Commission and seeing how the team was struggling with decisions on public art.
- She wants to see Newburyport celebrated for its art, culture and history and feels that story can be told through public art.
- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the appointment. Cllr. Donahue was the second.
- Committee voted 3-0 to approve APPT0467 to the full council.

**Order 515: Morrill Gift Acceptance \$110K**

- KimTurner gave an overview of the Morrill Charitable Foundation, mission and scope. The foundation donates approximately \$100K per year for the beautification of Newburyport, primarily parks.
- They generally meet with the city in August, write their directive in November and it gets submitted to Council in December. They were delayed this year while waiting for Bartlett Mall (BM) project bids.
- They understand that the project is on pause but still want to donate to BM. The administration has gone back to the Morrills twice to ask them to consider donating the money elsewhere but they consider themselves champions of the BM and they are steadfast in their desire to donate the

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money to this project. They want to donate specifically to granite seating at the BM but do not want to donate generally to the project. They may consider doing that in the future.

- The accompanying memo details that the total gift amount is \$149,053.46 due to \$37K left over from a previous slope management project at BM and \$2,053.46 left over from Atkinson Commons maintenance building.
- The money will be held in an account that will not allow it to be used in any way other than how it has been requested.
- Cllr. Preston expressed that she is inclined to vote no because she does not agree with earmarking money for a project that currently has no funding source when we have many other parks projects where the money could be utilized such as Market Landing park, Lower Atkinson and 59 Low St.
- SPM Turner is hopeful to use these funds as matching funds as they explore other grants to fund the greater BM project.
- Cllr. Harman asked if there is a precedent for receiving funds that are not utilized in the year they are donated. SPM Turner pointed out that the Morrill's donated for a multi-sport court at Lower Atkinson that has not moved forward yet.
- SPM Turner agreed that the granite seating is not integral to the frog pond restoration and has previously been identified as a detail to be value engineered out if the bids came in high and it would likely be removed from the project in the future. The Morrills are aware of this.
- Cllr. Preston asked about using the funds to Flexipave the path at the west end of the BM for access but SPM Turner feels it would be wasteful since it would be ripped up by construction crews when the BM project moves forward.
- Cllr. Harman moved to approve the order. Cllr. Donahue was the second.
- Committee voted 2-1 (Preston no) to approve Order 515 to the full council.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Peter Carzasty, 35 Temple St - all donor relationships are based on trust. Continuing to push the donors to donate the money elsewhere runs the risk of breaking the trust of the foundation. Perhaps we could consider asking the foundation to put a time limit of 2-3 years for the donation and reconsider the money at that time.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm