

Community Preservation Committee

April 27, 2016

Attendees: Didi Chadran, John Lee, Jo Ward, Deb Thomson, Michelle Catalina, Pam Marston

Absent: Beth Williams

The meeting convened at 7:40PM. Michelle marked the occasion with an insanely rich chocolate cake.

Minutes from 2/24/2016 were approved.

Didi remarked that the CPC has gone without a Park & Rec liaison for nearly a year. John noted it was closer to two years, and offered to inquire with Wyona Lynch-McWhite about a liaison.

Current Business:

Treasurer Update (John Lee)

ATM – All CPC warrant articles passed.

Current Balance – With the warrant articles passed, the unreserved balance was roughly \$70K. Plus there was another \$26,100 in the Historic Reserve account from the prior year. The CPC board had originally earmarked this balance for Janet Vellante's Historic Records Preservation project. Lorraine Leonard determined that these funds should be kept in the Historic Reserve instead.

Schedule

Didi asked whether we should maintain the same review and decision schedule that we used during 2014-2015. The group recounted that the schedule was adopted to respond to Debbie Ricci's request to allow organizations to turn to CPIC for funding if they are not approved by the CPC. Yet the stone wall didn't get CPIC consideration after the CPC submitted our decisions, nor did the Conservation Fund.

Michelle took the action to discuss this matter with Debbie Ricci.

Regardless of the outcome of this discussion, the group took a vote on maintaining the previous year's schedule and approved it unanimously.

Michelle took the action to develop a proposed schedule for the 2016-2017.

Didi took the action to decide whether the May meeting will be on May 18th or May 25th.

DOR CPA Trust Fund Distribution Update

The Community Preservation Coalition sent an email on April 12th reporting that the MA DOR estimated the November 2016 first-round CPA State match at 19%. Didi took the action to forward the Coalition's email to make sure all CPC members see it.

John noted that the effective match last year was about 31%. Discussion turned on the advantages and disadvantages of increasing Harvard's CPA surcharge to 3%, a recommendation made in the recently completed Master Plan. John observed that the amount of money awarded in the 2nd and 3rd rounds can be trivial, depending on town size and other factors. He then took the action to ask Stu Saginor if the Coalition can model or otherwise assess the impact of a surcharge increase in Harvard to the full 3%.

Michelle took the action to present the impact of the Master Plan on the CPC, and requested Didi's help for this. The Planning Board plans to present corresponding findings to all the relevant town committees and commissions.

ATM Post-Mortem

The group expressed satisfaction that every CPC warrant article passed. Other notes:

John observed that there is a standard warrant article to accept all committee reports, and proposes doing away with the CPC-specific article. Michelle offered that Debbie Ricci probably knows something of the history behind this recurring CPC warrant article, and took the action to ask her about it.

Didi mentioned that Leo didn't read either the MAHT warrant article or the discretionary \$300K grant to reduce the overall debt for the Town Hall renovation. [Didi discovered after the meeting, however, that he, not Leo, had signed up to read the MAHT article after all.]

Jo shared that she was very impressed by this, her very first ATM in the four years she has lived in Harvard.

Notification Letters to Grant Awardees

Didi took the action to draft the notification letters and share them with the group via BCC. These notifications will include official notification of voters' approval as well as a reminder that mid-year status reports are due in June. Didi will also include a letter to Connie Larabee for the Hildreth House renovation project extended at ATM.

Annual Officer Elections

The group agreed to hold annual officer elections in the May meeting.

Action Item Summary

1. John: contact Wyona Lynch McWhite about assigning a Park & Rec liaison to CPC.
2. Michelle: discuss the CPC grant review and decision schedule, as well as the warrant article about accepting the CPC annual report, with Debbie Ricci.
3. Michelle: develop a proposed schedule for the 2016-2017.
4. Didi: decide whether the May meeting will be on May 18th or May 25th and notify the group.
5. Didi: forward the Coalition's email to make sure all CPC members see it.
6. John: ask Stu Saginor if the Coalition can model or otherwise assess the impact of a surcharge increase in Harvard to the full 3%.
7. Michelle: present the impact of the Master Plan on the CPC, with Didi's help.
8. Didi: draft notification letters to grant awardees, as well as a reminder letter to Connie Larabee for mid-year status info.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Didi Chadran