

Community Preservation Committee March 19, 2014

Present: Deb Ricci, Joe Hutchinson, Didi Chadran, Beth Williams, Leo Blair
Guest: John Lee, Harvard Park Association

The meeting convened at 7:53 PM. The minutes from February 19th were approved as amended.

Deb reported that the wording in Warrant Article #34, "Resurfacing (Restoration of) McCurdy Track, " was changed from previous wording which had stipulated that the approved funds would be transferred to the Harvard Park Association, as per the guidance of Town Counsel Mark Lanza, who was concerned about transferring funds directly to a non-town government entity. The final wording, as printed for the April 1 ATM, states that the funds will be expended by the Harvard Park and Recreation Commission, which will remit receipts to the town on behalf of the Harvard Park Association. John Lee said that Park and Rec seems amenable this, although they haven't formally accepted this arrangement.

Deb followed up on an email CPC members should have received from Stuart Saginor of the Community Preservation Coalition suggesting that the state CPA percentage match seems headed for a record low 23% this fall, due to declining Registry of Deeds collections.

Deb distributed copies of the CPC warrant articles as they will appear in the ATM book.

Didi made a motion to send letters to CPC grant applicants using one of two templates, one tailored to concrete projects (e.g., Stone Wall Restoration), the other to funds (e.g., Conservation Commission). He will send drafts to CPC members after ATM for final review and approval. Approved unanimously.

Leo offered a preview of a spreadsheet model he created to show the 10-year impact of a \$1 million debt service on CPC funds. He expressed the view that the town should regard the CPC as a resource for capital financing, rather than for debt servicing. Deb agreed to send the spreadsheet model by email.

Deb mentioned a conversation she had with Liz Garner, who expressed interest in taking on administrative work for the CPC at a rate of \$28.33 per hour. A healthy debate ensued on the merits (full participation by members) and risks (concerns about appropriate use of town money) of paying an admin to record meeting minutes. The group agreed a larger discussion was needed to define the best role for a CPC admin (e.g., accounting, reversion of unused funds, status report enforcement, etc.), and Deb agreed to follow up.

The next meeting will be scheduled for April 1st at 6:30 PM, but if no complications arise with the McCurdy Track Resurfacing warrant article or any other issue, this will likely be canceled.

The May 21st meeting will need to include nominating officers, tasking for public notification of the next application cycle, posting the application form on the town Web site, updating and approving the status report form, and setting the meeting calendar for the next year.

The Committee adjourned at 8:30 pm.