

Community Preservation Committee

September 17, 2014

Attendees: Didi Chadran, John Lee, Beth Williams, Deb Thomson, Joe Hutchinson, Tim Clark

The meeting convened at 7:36 PM. Minutes were approved.

Entry of New Funding Approvals in CP-3 Database: John Lee reported that the CPA link has been accessed. John submitted the 5 projects voted on and approved at the April 2014 Annual Town Meeting. We should receive confirmation of the funds distributed by the State on or around October 15th. John Lee will look into individual project tracking.

CPC Officers Notification: Didi had notified Town Hall of the addition of Pam Marston. Didi will notify the coalition regarding the addition of Pam Marston as the Historic Commission representative and the deletion of Joe Schmidt as the Parks and Rec representative, due to his resignation.

Follow-up on MAHT CPC Reporting: Didi spoke with David Hopper, MAHT Treasurer and sent him a copy of the report form. David is looking for prior reporting by the MAHT. Didi will update CPC after meeting with the coalition and the Town.

Follow-up on CPC Spreadsheets and General Process Issues: Discussion of a needs assessment from all stakeholders needed. CPC is looking for long range planning from all grantees.

Grant Requests: 1 Grant Request received to date from MAHT. Deadline is September 26th. Deb Thomson will follow up with Connie Larrabee regarding upcoming COA requests.

New Business:

CPC Surcharge: Tim Clark presented a business case for increasing Harvard's CPC surcharge. The CPC surcharge was adopted in 2001 at 1.1% as a way to gain access to State matched funds for preservation and open space projects. From 2002-2007, the State matched 100% of local funds. 2008-2013, the State matching dropped to a low of 26% and bounced back to 52% in 2014 due to \$25 million surplus investment from State Legislature. If Harvard had adopted the 3% surcharge in 2001, an estimated \$3.15 million would have been raised by the Town and Harvard potentially would have received \$2.7 million in matching funds.

Reasons to raise the Surcharge to 3%:

- Define a savings plan for upcoming major projects. Allow Harvard to self-finance projects locally.

- 3% surcharge will make Harvard eligible for second and third round funding from State.
- Investment decisions for these funds are controlled by the town.
- 3% surcharge would allow for exemptions for low income eligible families and moderate income senior households.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32pm.