

Community Preservation Committee

May 27, 2015

Attendees: Didi Chadran, John Lee, Beth Williams, Jo Ward, Deb Thomson, Leo Blair, Pam Marston, Michelle Catalina, Joe Theriault

Absent: Elizabeth Payne

The meeting convened at 7:33 PM.

Minutes were approved, with 2 abstentions.

Post-Mortem on Annual Town Meeting: It was suggested that we tighten some of the wording on articles presented next year, so as to avoid confusion. Suggestion was heartily agreed to.

Current Business:

Letters to Grant Applicants: Didi presented draft letters to be sent to all applicants. Michelle Catalina will send to MAHT, Deb Thomson will send to ConCom, and John Lee will send to Harvard Park Trust/Park & Rec.

Wrap-up of Historical Commission discussion from March: Joe Theriault continued his presentation on the proposed policies that the Historical Commission is looking to agree to with the CPC.

1. That HHC and CPC will require a Preservation Restriction to secure CPC investments in the historic preservation of historic municipal and historic private properties that lie outside the Historic Districts.
2. That CPC will consider requests by the HHC for the funding of Historic Preservation Restrictions of important town-owned or historic private properties outside of Harvard's Historic Districts.
3. That the CPC will consider requests by the HHC for the transfer of funds into the Historic Preservation Reserve Fund in addition to the 10% required by the CPA.
4. That the CPC will explicitly require that all rehabilitation work on historic properties comply with the Secretary of the Department of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.
5. That the HHC will review and report to the CPC on the actual CPC fund expenditures for historic preservation projects.

Discussion of this presentation focused on:

1. The CPC should not condition requests for funding on restrictions imposed by other boards or committees.

2. Requests for funding of Historic Preservation Restrictions of important town owned or historic private properties outside of the Historic District can be submitted for consideration but not as a means to expand the Historic District
3. As is, without Town Meeting approval. Concern over funding private properties with public funds was expressed.
4. The CPC will not explicitly require that all rehabilitation work on historic properties comply with the Secretary of the Department of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.
5. As is.

New Business:

BoS Request to Accelerate CPC Schedule: Leo Blair presented the Board of Selectman's request that the CPC accelerate their cycle of Grant Request to be completed by November 1. CPIC and FinCom would like to finish their budget in December. Michelle Catalina proposed ending the CPC cycle by November 11th. Discussion was held as to whether this was feasible under the CPC Rules and Regulations. Applications are due in from Grantees by September 25th. Meetings to be held with Grant Requestors on 10/14 and 10/28. Review and final decision by November 11th. Schedule approved by CPC.

MAHT Poor Farm: Leo reported that property is currently on the market for sale. RFP bids are due by June 10th. Bids come in sealed. Proceeds of the sale will go into the MAHT fund.

Unfiled CPC Materials from Town Hall: During the move of Town Hall to the Old Library, CPC files from 2000-2010 were found (Project Reports, Applications, Agendas, Minutes, and Misc. papers). Most of these are documented elsewhere. John Lee recommended keeping important documents and disposing of rest. Recommendation passed.

CPA Action Request: Senate debate is starting on FY16 State Budget and the CPA has requested that CPC members send letters/emails to their state representatives supporting using surplus FY15 funds for CPC projects. It was suggested that if CPC members support this funding, that we send such letters.

Michelle Catalina moved that the CPC not meet until our September meeting. – Passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.