

Community Preservation Committee

Minutes
April 19, 2022

Members Present: Kerry McKenna, Jennifer-Lee Levitz Aronson, Bill Cuff, Hank McCarl, Bob Whitmarsh, Robert Gulla, Mark Poulin, Matt Lundberg and Harry Hoglander.

Public hearing called to order at 6:03 PM by Matt L. Attendance taken by roll call. All members present.

Item #1 Approval of Minutes 3/29/2022

Minutes were approved as submitted, 9 in favor, 0 opposed. Matt L. agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

Item #2 Nomination and election of CPC officers

Officer positions on the CPC must be nominated and voted on annually.

On a motion by Matt L, seconded by Bill C, the Community Preservation Committee voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to create the position of vice-chair of the CPC.

Nominations for CPC chair were held. Bob W nominated Matt Lundberg, seconded by Hank M. No other nominations were offered. Matt Lundberg was elected chair on a voice vote of 9 in favor, 0 against.

Nominations for CPC vice-chair were held. Bob W nominated Bill Cuff, seconded by Hank M. No other nominations were offered. Bill Cuff was elected vice-chair on a voice vote of 9 in favor, 0 against.

Both positions are affective April 19, 2022 and expire April 19, 2023.

Item #3 Current Application Updates

Schooner Adventure: Kerry has been in touch with new executive director and new board member. They're still deciding who will take the ball in managing their application. Once determined Kerry will forward contact information to all of us.

City-owned Cemeteries: Bob's been in touch with them, Historic Commission is due to meet in early May to confirm the Historic nature of their project's eligibility.

Dogtown Projects (2): Mark talked with Cindy Dunn, who informed us that she had met with Mike Hale and Mayor Verga to discuss what happens when with this effort. Cindy will confirm before our application deadline whether they proceed with a request for CPC funds this year.

Magnolia Library: Kiley Davis has questions on what she could & couldn't put in their application. They are adjusting their application slightly and will have it done by the deadline.

Main Street Housing: Jennifer-Lee spoke with GHA director David Holden. They acknowledged there are now two bidders on the project. Applicant Harborlight Partners has completed the application.

Manship Projects (2): Matt reported on Bill & Matt's site visit and conversation with the applicant. They have three project needs, all on different timeframes. The applicant will clarify what they're applying for in this round before the deadline.

Our Lady of Good Voyage: Bill C reported no change, application will be completed on time. They'll schedule a site visit for this summer.

Nate Ross Baseball Field: Mark P visited the site with the applicant. They've got everything they need to complete the application. They're also getting guidance from Con Comm on what they need to confirm on site drainage & their buffer zone.

Rocky Neck Cultural Center: Harry & Hank voiced concern that other plans they have may destroy the work we would fund. We discussed the use of municipal restriction in the agreement to prevent this. Bob explained the GHC process to get historic certification. The committee discussed the use of restrictions to protect against future actions that might destroy CPC funded work. Harry will work with the applicant to confirm whether it's appropriate to proceed with an application at this time.

Saunders House HVAC: Hank confirmed the application would be completed, no open questions at this time.

Stage Fort Park / Lucy Davis Pathway Extension. Matt & Mark reported site visit was done. Outstanding issue is timing and percentage of the project CPC is being asked to fund. Applicant understands that they need letters of support from the mayor's office and the DPW that they will be ready to proceed, and that the city will seek alternate funding sources.

Stage Fort Park / Playground Rehabilitation. Bill reported on a site visit. Applicant has no additional questions at this time.

Stage Fort Park / Street Hockey Rink. Bill reported a site visit was upcoming in late April. Applicant has no additional questions at this time.

Maritime Gloucester: Kerry told Michael they need to get in front of the GHC as soon as possible to confirm the historic nature of the Maritime Gloucester building. No other questions at this time.

Trinity Congregational Church: Rob G spoke with Steve Ludwig. They need some assistance in completing their application properly.

Willowood Gardens Roof Replacements: Jennifer-Lee reported applicant is all set & will be in by our deadline.

Other Projects: A private group is raising funds for renovation of the GHS Tennis Courts. They inquired through Mark P into the availability & eligibility of CPC Funds for their project. Mark will get back to them with our information.

This prompted the committee to discuss the concept and potential usage of off-cycle applications this year. There was consensus that this would be difficult this year given the high demand for our available funds.

Item #4 Administrative Update

Budget process. The budget process was discussed. Matt reported on conversations he's had with city auditor Kenny Costa. Bill questioned the derivation of numbers reported by the Community Preservation Coalition, specifically which fiscal year the state's allocation to Gloucester gets reported in vs. which year our locally collected taxes get reported in. Matt will invite Kenny to one of our meetings this summer, likely in July, to incorporate our budget into this year's process.

CPC signage. We discussed on-site signage noting projects that have been funded by the CPC. In agreements all grant recipients are required to display a sign, but in practice they aren't on all sites. Rob made a good point that it's not practical to put a sign on all projects, and for some we may not want to. We agreed to find out whether the DPW has unused signs in its possession and how much it would cost to have more made; out state of the art, which ones should we put signage on (not all), Jennifer-Lee and Rob willing to help once a plan is in place.

In person meetings. Kerry asked if there's been any direction from the city on meeting in person; there has not been. The committee is still happy with Zoom meetings, but several members expressed an interesting to meet in person again at some time. Possibly some but not all meetings could be in person. We agreed to ask where the city stands on this.

Item #5 Discussion of CPC Plan Review

Matt confirmed that the current CPC Plan had been sent to committee. We agreed to put off discussion of this until our 2022 cycle decisions are made.

Item #6 Next Meeting – May 17, 2022

Matt informed the committee that we would likely need more than one meeting per month between now and final decisions in September. We reviewed last year's process briefly, and agreed to flesh out our summer meeting schedule on May 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Lundberg