

Community Preservation Committee  
Meeting Report for February 19, 2013  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, City Hall @6:00

Members attending: J.J. Bell, Sandy Ronan, Karen Gallagher, John Feener, Tom O'Keefe, Scott Smith, Charles Crowley, Bill Dugan

Staff: Debbie Laurie, Project Manager

Others: Councilor Paul Mc Geary, Denton Crews, FOGH

The Meeting began with the motions to approve the minutes of December 18, 2012 and the minutes of January 17, 2013, both of which were unanimously approved with John Feener abstaining (as he was not on the CPC for those meetings).

Denton Crews then gave the committee an update on the progress of FOGH. Although the FOGH has made a great effort to purchase and preserve the land on Thatcher Road, the progress has been stymied by the failure to get a Land Grant from the State and more recently, the failure of the land sellers to renew the P and S Agreement, the sellers indicating that they had another buyer. It was noted by Charlie Crowley that the termination of the P and S Agreement triggered the termination of the CPA Grant Award to FOGH under the terms of the CPC Grant vote. Denton indicated that the FOGH would like to soldier on with Plan B, which included raising the necessary funds over the coming months, \$300,000 from large donors, \$100,000 from small donors or and/or a loan. Dusky has agreed to extend its pledge. (See financing plan and update attached.) Therefore, Denton asked the CPC to extend its commitment for a number of months. Given the low probability of the acquisition by FOGH moving forward in the near future as well as the failure to get the Land Grant and the loss of land control, the CPC, while sympathetic to Mr. Crews, was skeptical of granting any formal extension, pointing out that the FOGH could always re-apply next year or sooner, in the case of a time sensitive need. Also, the CPC is just starting Round 4, with approx. \$1,300,000 in application requests. After some deliberation, the CPC decided to table the discussion until the next meeting. In the interim Sandy, J.J. and/or Deb would confer with Suzanne Eagan and Jeff Towne. It was also agreed to obtain a CPC financial position update from Kenny Costa. Sandy Ronan gave an update of the progress at the Sawyer Free Library

regarding their landscaping project for which they have received a CPA funding award. The original bids being too high, the Library recently rebid the project and has received more palatable bids. They will meet soon to discuss and report back to us.

Deb Laurie then gave us an update of the outstanding projects from Rounds 1-3. Of particular note is the possibility (to be confirmed) the Little River Project may not be moving forward (to be confirmed) and also that there is a new Community Development Director, Tom Daniels.

Deb Laurie updated the CPC as to the status of the signs. Except for the Greenbelt Tompson Gateway project, all projects that should have a sign in fact have one. We discussed and agreed upon the need to charge \$150.00/sign to each successful applicant and that Deb Laurie would remind the successful applicants to mention CPC funding in their written material, as per the award agreement.

A general discussion of the Round 4 eligible pre-applications was held. It was noted by Sandy Ronan that there were no housing applications. Charlie Crowley opined that the inclusion of both recreation and open space under a 10% minimum may hurt open space. It was also pointed out that a number of applicants were individuals and, while legal, a stronger application would link to a relevant organization. A number of applications were asking for an amount equal to the project budget. While legal, leveraging other funds is desirable. J.J. Bell recused himself of any **discussion relating to Cape Ann Museum's application**. Also, several historic applications are awaiting historical significance determinations from the Gloucester Historical Commission. The Commission is meeting on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to review. They will forward their decisions shortly thereafter.

The next two meetings are scheduled to be public information sessions where the applicants can present their projects. Subject to space availability, the meetings are planned for March 19<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm, place to be determined.

Respectfully submitted  
J.J. Bell, Co Chair

