

Community Preservation Committee Meeting
June 17, 2014
City Hall 3rd Floor @ 6 PM

Attendees: J.J. Bell, Sandy Ronan, Charlie Crowley, John Feener, Bill Dugan, Stacy Randell

Staff: Deb Laurie, Community Development Department

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting was brought to order by Sandy Ronan and the meeting minutes from the May 13, 2014 were approved.

Review of Rounds 1-4

Deb Laurie reviewed Rounds 1-4, indicating that the Phyllis A was finally hauled and ready for work, that we are still waiting to hear from Steve Winslow regarding the continued necessity of the North Woods appraisals, that we had heard nothing from the Magnolia Bike Club re the use of their award, and that Dale Brown will start making progress on the City Hall mural restoration. John Feener pointed out that he is assisting Jim Schoel to complete his project adjacent to GHS.

Round 5 Available Funding

J.J. Bell reported on his meeting with Kenny Costa, the purpose of which was to determine the funds available for Round 5 funding. Kenny felt that \$400,000 was a good working number, given surcharge revenues collected to date as well as the unbudgeted increased match we received in the Fall of 2013. If we wanted to pay off the remaining Newell debt of \$78,000 in Feb. of 2015, the remaining amount available for Round 5 would be \$322,000, unless we wanted to utilize for Round 5 all or a portion of the budgeted 2015 open space reserve of \$61,000, which the committed elected not to do.

Charlie Crowley brought up the issue of whether to make the open space reserve exclusive for open space (vs. open space and recreation). J.J. Bell questioned whether that option could be done, given the State statute, and also questioned the wisdom of limiting the CPC's flexibility to use the open space reserve for open space and/or recreation, as provided in the State statute. It was agreed to table the discussion.

Round 5 Applications and Recommendations

Based upon the straw vote taken at the previous meeting, it was agreed that there was general consensus regarding whether or not to fund the various applications and at what level. Areas of continued discussion included getting more info from the Magnolia Library re costs (follow-up by Deb), assurance from the Holy Family Parish that the CPC funding would be returned should the Church cease operating as present (follow-up by Deb), whether to fund City Hall in this Round (it being agreed that it may not make sense in the round even though the CHRC is doing a great job, whether to fund Cape Ann Museum at the \$20,000 level, the general consensus being yes. It was reported that the Rocky Neck Cultural Center received a MCC grant and that they were a strong organization. Also, the Greenbelt application for land acquisition in North Woods was discussed. While Greenbelt was considered a great organization and it was pointed out that the property is permitted for housing development and would provide important access to Dogtown, it was generally felt that we could not provide the "all or nothing" significant funding being requested during Round 5. One possibility discussed was to revisit in the fall, provided Greenbelt received its State Land Grant, and determine whether an off-cycle application by Greenbelt would be advisable at that time. Finally, Doug Parsons advised us that there may be some State bond funding available for the Phyllis A and we thanked him for his continuing efforts.

The committee decided we would draft motions to bring to the meeting next week on June 24 and have as a goal to finalize our voting recommendations at that time.

Public relations

Stacy Randell and other members of the committee would make follow-up calls to previous awardees to discuss with them writing a My View column. Sandy would follow-up with Ray Lamont re a meeting with reps. of the CPC and the newspaper to discuss all that the CPA is doing in Gloucester.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote, the next meeting being June 24, 2014.