

Gloucester Community Preservation Committee
Committee Meeting Report for April 28, 2010

Members attending: Stacy Randell, J.J. Bell, Sandy Dahl-Ronan, John Feener, Karen Gallagher, Dan Morris, Scott Smith, Bill Dugan, Ian Lane

Members absent:

Staff: Matt Lustig, Community Development Staff

1. Minutes from the public information hearing held on April 12, 2010, were accepted unanimously and without amendment. Moved, Mr. Dugan; seconded, Mr. Bell.
2. Minutes from the CPC meeting held following the hearing on April 12, 2010, were accepted unanimously and without amendment. Moved, Mr. Feener; seconded, Ms. Gallagher.
3. Dates for the next two meetings were set; May 26 and June 23, 2010. For now, the CPC will meet the fourth Wednesday evening of each month. Additional meetings may be added, as needed and agreed to by the CPC. A process for and constraints on conferring between announced meetings was discussed.
4. Mr. Lustig reported on his investigation into the City's ability to issue bonds on the basis of anticipated Community Preservation revenue. In summary:
 - The City may issue bonds and a variety of bonding structures may be available, including combining the CP bond assurances with the general fund.
 - Statewide, the most common reasons for CP bonding are to support open space procurement and city hall restoration.
 - The Commonwealth provides guidelines for the different types of bond structures and repayment schedules.
 - If the CPC decides to recommend bonding as a means of supporting projects, then the Committee will need to draw on the expertise of the City's chief financial officer and finance staff to determine the best bonding strategy and other details, such as loan initialization costs.
 - If the City votes to withdraw from the CPA, collections would continue until any outstanding bonds are resolved.
5. CPC members have heard from several organizations and advocates regarding specific potential projects. Mr. Dugan drafted and distributed a notice regarding the CPC and the upcoming solicitation for proposals. It garnered an enthusiastic response from the Gloucester Daily Times as a source of funding for improvements to Newell Stadium. Community Development Director Sarah Buck sent a letter to the editor of the Times explaining the constraints on using CP funding under the current statute.

Also, there were inquiries about housing from Action, Inc., preservation and restoration of the Davis-Freeman house (from Wellspring) and City Hall and, and a suggestion for a new park in which dogs would be allowed to run unleashed.

6. Ms. Dahl-Ronan and Mr. Bell discussed recently past and upcoming outreach opportunities at the Rotary Club; the semi-annual meeting of City Boards, Committees, and Commissions; Wards throughout the City; and the Chamber of Commerce.

7. The CPC reviewed and unanimously approved a draft budget for the new fiscal year. We anticipate a total of \$560,000 in revenue, including matching funds. The approved distribution proposal reserves and appropriates funds for CPC administrative costs and reserves the minimum allowable percentage of funds to each of the required spending categories. Moved, Mr. Lane; seconded, Mr. Smith.

8. The CPC reviewed public comments and suggested edits to the draft CP plan. Each suggested amendment was reviewed by the CPC and, if accepted, entered into a copy of the draft plan by Ms. Dahl-Ronan and Mr. Lustig. The CPC voted unanimously to adopt the perfected plan as final. Moved, Mr. Dugan; seconded, Mr. Feener.

Mr. Lustig will effect the edits and will ensure the plan is distributed and available on the Community Development website. The complete document will be available for download, and so will the forms and guidelines, as individual files.

9. The meeting adjourned around 8:45 p.m. on Mr. Feener's motion, Ms. Dahl-Ronan's second, and the CPC's unanimous consent.