

Gloucester Community Preservation Committee

Meeting Report for March 8, 2010

Members attending: Stacy Randell, J.J. Bell, Sandy Dahl-Ronan, John Feener, Karen Gallagher, Dan Morris, Scott Smith, Ian Lane, Bill Dugan
Members absent: None
Staff: Matt Lustig, Community Development Staff

1. The meeting of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) commenced at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor meeting room in City Hall. A quorum was present.
2. Minutes from the meeting held on February 8, 2010, were accepted unanimously and without amendment. Moved, Mr. Bell; seconded, Mr. Dugan.
3. Mr. Lustig was introduced as a new Community Development staff member, hired to support the CPC. He spoke a bit about his background and was welcomed by all members.
4. At the City Council briefing list month, a Councilor asked about the process for applying for a CP abatement. The Assessor's Office has sent a letter to all residents over the age of 70 explaining the process and providing the abatement request form. The form is also available through the city website. To date, 115 residents have applied for the abatement.
5. The CPC's draft plan will be posted on the city's website. Ms. Randell asked that print copies be provided at the library, senior center, city hall, and other places around town in advance of a public hearing on April 12, 2010.

Certain edits that the plan compiler, Ms. Linda Brayton, made were not included in the version that has been distributed. The CPC agreed that Ms. Brayton's edits should be incorporated in the copies for distribution. Comments received from City committees and departments will be compiled and organized by Mr. Lustig for review by the CPC.

6. There was some discussion about whether and when the mayor would meet with the CPC. The CPC agreed that the mayor should be invited to make opening remarks at the public hearing and asked if she would meet with the committee for a few minutes before the meeting.
7. The public meeting is officially dubbed a public information hearing. It will occur on April 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a short informational presentation at the start of the session. Mr. Lustig was asked to connect the community access television station to record and present the session. Residents attending the hearing will be asked to focus their comments on the CP plan and not to discuss specific projects, except to illuminate points about the plan. The CPC will accept oral comments on the CP plan at the session and in writing through April 16, 2010. In order to respond to and/or adopt comments in a timely manner, the CPC will meet on Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

8. Several CPC members and local leaders have sent letters to Representative Ferrante and other legislators asking for support of passage of SB90. Representative Ferrante has been supportive. Council Verga should be reminded of his promise to draft a letter.

7. The CPC discussed briefing the mayor on the committee's progress and the draft CP plan. Ms. Garcia will consult with Mayor Kirk and ask if she would consider attending a CPC meeting. A member recommended that SB90 and the CP plan should be the subject of the mayor's Saturday column in the Gloucester Daily Times just before the April 12 hearing.

8. Other items.

- Ms. Randell led a discussion of the My View column that she drafted and took note of edits suggested by the CPC.
- Mr. Feener offered to speak to the Rotary Club about the CPA on March 30.
- Mr. Dugan offered to speak about the CPA at a monthly meeting of residents of the Gloucester Housing Authority.
- Members were asked to consider speaking at a Chamber of Commerce event or the Rose Baker Center prior to the April hearing.
- Mr. Dugan noted that all city committee members are required to complete the state on-line ethics training before April 1. Mr. Lustig offered to confirm the requirement and track down the details.
- Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Lustig are planning to meet with the City Accounting Office to consult about financial report formats that will suit the CPC.

10. The next two meetings of the CPC will be:

- Monday, April 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m., and
- Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned around 8:45 p.m. on Mr. Feener's motion, Mr. Bell's second, and the CPC's unanimous consent.