

Gloucester Community Preservation Committee

Committee Meeting Report for June 23, 2015

Members attending: David Rhinelander, Stacy Randell, Bill Dugan, John Feener, Scott Smith, Catherine Schlichte
Members absent: Charles Crowley, Barbara Silverman
Staff: Debbie Laurie, Community Development Staff

1. The meeting began just after 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to determine the appropriate use of additional funds in the account as reported by Ken Costa. Ms. Laurie reported that amount as \$50,000. She also advised the committee that approximately \$10,000 was available due to unused grant funds from previous year allocations.
2. The following motions were made and approved unanimously:
 - To rescind \$5,021.85 from the Community Preservation Act funds for the completed project of the Skate Park Improvements, DPW
 - To rescind \$4,000 from the Community Preservation Act funds for the withdrawn project of the Stage Fort Park Improvements.
 - To rescind \$2.70 from the Community Preservation Act funds for the completed project of the Matos Field Improvements
3. Ms. Randell asked for a reconsideration of the grant application from St. John's Episcopal Church for a feasibility study for housing. The ensuing discussion reflected a consensus that St. John's should be given some level of support to show the Committee's support of their intent to develop Community Housing. Previously the Committee consensus felt that the very preliminary nature of the proposed endeavor limited the Committee's desire to commit more than a minimal amount of the cost of the study. The risk of a study that does not support feasibility for the proposal to build 100% affordable housing on the site also contributed to the Committee's concerns. A motion was made to approve a grant in the amount of \$5,000 payable upon the receipt of a favorable report that supports Community Housing on the St. John's parking lot site. This amount would be charged to the Community Housing Reserve Account. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. The Committee members then considered the allocation of the additional \$60,000. It was proposed that the amount be equally divided among three projects significantly underfunded in relation to the projects' costs and the relative need of the applicants. A motion was made to allocate \$20,000 additional to the already approved grant amounts for Mattos Field Rehabilitation, Ocean Alliance Interior Renovation of Buildings A & B, and Action Inc.'s Preservation of the Historic Woolworth Building.

During the discussion on the motion Mr. Feener suggested there be no change to the allocations and setting aside the \$60,000 for future funding rounds. He expressed his feeling that the grant amounts allocated previously were appropriate to the proposed

projects. There was a consensus among the other members that the additional \$20,000 would be a significant increase allowing the three projects a better chance of success.

The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Ms Randell advised the Committee that she would be speaking in opposition to the Committee's vote in favor of grant funds for Action, Inc.'s Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program at the City Council public hearing on the recommended slate of projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
William Dugan

List of documents:

1. June 16, 2015 draft minutes
2. CPA budget materials