

Community Preservation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 6th, 2023

Present: Tom Callahan, (Chair), Peter Jackson (Treasurer) Linda Weld, Joseph Duffy, Ted Carroll Esq., Cheryl Tougias, Sr. Administrative Clerk Julia Getman.

Absent: Jenny Russell (Vice Chair) Kathleen O'Donnell, Wendy Garpow.

1. Administrative Items:

The first meeting of FY2024 was called to order via Zoom at 7:01 p.m. Upcoming meetings were confirmed for July 12th, 19th and 26th.

2. Review and Discussion of Eligibility Applications

Milton Cemetery: Milton Cemetery Director Lisa Ahern discussed the long history of the cemetery and the significance of certain headstones, many of which need repair. A \$100,000 request had been applied for under Historic Preservation, and she estimated that 74 markings would need repair. She did not provide an estimate of the total project cost.

Conservation Restriction: Conservation Commission Chair John Kiernan discussed an application to create a restriction on 6.8 acres stretching between Brush Hill Rd. and Rte. 138, formerly owned by the Carr family. He discussed the topography of the property and the importance of protecting open space and said that a path for public access would be required. The request was for \$100,000, and he mentioned that some of the neighbors may provide financial assistance.

Popes Pond Pedestrian Bridge: Mr. Kiernan discussed the placement of the bridge, which would complete a walking trail around the pond. The project was approved in the first round of funding, and an additional \$40,000 was requested. He said the Department of Public Works would be involved in the project as well.

Popes Pond Handicap Study: Mr. Kiernan mentioned that Turner's Pond is ADA accessible. He said that the \$40,000 requested would be used to develop a design plan to see if the trail around Popes Pond could be brought up to ADA standards without destroying too many trees, and that a landscape architect would need to weigh in.

3. Discussion of Grant Agreements

The Committee discussed the grant agreements drawn up by Ms. O'Donnell for projects that received funding in FY2023. It was noted that all Historic Preservation projects would need to meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards and that the Mass. Historical Commission would need to be consulted. It was mentioned that the cemetery application may need to meet National Park Service standards.


4. Evaluation Criteria Sub-Committee Report

The subcommittee, consisting of Ms. Weld and Mr. Jackson, was established to analyze the standards by which applications are approved. Mr. Jackson stated that certain inequities in how the different CPA categories are approached needed to be addressed and the criteria by which the applications are to be judged needs to be more specific to the topic. He said the Open Space and Recreation applications had more opportunities to gain "points" than the Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing applications, and believed that the numerical evaluations used by the Committee should be more equitable across the categories. He asked for input from Committee members and said that he and Ms. Weld would continue to address the issue.

5. CPC Celebration Discussion

Mr. Callahan discussed the idea of holding an educational event to promote the CPC and to celebrate the first year of funding. He said a public event, which would be paid for with administrative funds, would demonstrate to taxpayers the impacts of CPA funding. He mentioned that CPA lawn signs had been printed to place in areas that had benefited from CPA funding. It was noted that some communities require permanent signs, which may be considered for Milton. Ways in which to publicize the CPA within Town were discussed.

6. Adjourn: On a motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Weld, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.


Thomas Callahan, Chair