

**Community Preservation Committee
January 3, 2024
Hybrid Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT

Joseph Sheehan
Catherine Walsh
Julie Barbour-Issa
Cheryl Doyle
Joe Greeley
Patricia Griffin Starr
John Hall
Matt Lane

Kristen Phelps, Community Preservation Coordinator
Emily Manning, Recording Secretary

ABSENT

Maria Gallesyan

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 P.M. Mr. Sheehan opened the public hearing and read the public hearing notice into the record.

PRESENTATIONS BY CPA APPLICANTS

Project: Washington Fire Bells #7 & #10

Applicant: John Grove & Michael Chisholm

Mr. Grove and Mr. Chisholm presented. Mr. Grove explained the history of the #7 fire bell, which had been housed in multiple locations in Norwood since the early 1900's. It was originally located at the Washington #7 fire station, where St. Catherine's church is located today. At some point in time, the bell was moved to the Carillon Tower at Town Hall. Most recently, Washington Fire Bell #7 was extracted from the Carillon Tower and moved to a temporary storage facility where it awaits restoration. The #10 fire bell had previously been located in an old fire station and was found at the pumping station by firefighters in 1970. The bell currently sits outside of the Public Safety Building and is rung during memorial events. Bell #10 is also in need of restoration. Mr. Grove explained that the permanent location of the #7 bell would be on Washington Street, across the street from the rectory at St. Catherine's Church. A bell mount and foundation are included in the proposal. The work to install the bell is expected to be done by the DPW. Mr. Grove explained that the Washington #10 bell would also be restored off-site and remounted outside of the fire station upon completion. The total cost to restore both bells is approximately \$60,000. Mr. Grove added that while they were waiting for approval from the Historical Commission, he received written support from the chair of that committee, Judith Howard.

Mr. Sheehan noted that there are benches and landscaping along the stretch of Washington Street where bell #7 is expected to be installed. Mr. Grove explained that Mark Ryan, DPW director, would make the call on where exactly the #7 bell would be situated.

Project: Airport Playground

Applicant: Recreation Department

John Kinney, Recreation Director, presented. He explained where the playground would be located at the airport, and noted that safety, accessibility, and keeping views available for others was a top priority. The

proposed playground consists of one main airport themed play structure, with two smaller standalone structures. Sensory play elements are located on the sides of the main structure, and there were plans to include additional standalone sensory apparatus. The total cost of the project is approximately \$251,000. This is a \$133,000 decrease from the plan proposed a few years ago as they were using a new vendor. Mr. Kinney also pointed out that there were no playgrounds located in that area of Norwood.

Mr. Sheehan was curious if benches already located at the airport would be moved for the playground. Mr. Kinney stated that the project should not interfere with items already located on the grounds. Mr. Sheehan also wondered about the accessibility of the walkway. Mr. Kinney explained that the walkway was already on the grounds, and trailed down into the parking lot. People in wheelchairs would not have issues reaching the playground via the walkway. Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Kinney also touched on the soil tests that were done at the site, all of which registered lead concentrations below reportable levels.

Ms. Doyle wondered if there were plans to include handicap-friendly apparatus at the playground. Mr. Kinney noted that his vendor had provided options for all-inclusive items. Mr. Lane questioned how many ADA accessible playground were located in Norwood. Mr. Kinney stated that he was looking to update other playgrounds in town to be more accessible, as he felt there were not enough. Mr. Hall was concerned about the lack of traffic information provided, as well as other safety concerns presented by the site. Mr. Kinney stated that he had received overwhelmingly positive feedback from families and residents. He also noted that the airport was a unique location to have children and families enjoy time outdoors. While he acknowledged the need for a playground in that area, Mr. Greeley brought up the factor of nuisance noise at the airport that could affect children and families. He also questioned if playgrounds located on school grounds were operated by the Recreation Department. Those playgrounds belong to the schools, and were not maintained by the Recreation Department.

Mr. Kinney explained that they had received a \$150,000 earmark from the State for the project. Half of the money would be received upon starting the project, with the other half being provided as a reimbursement. Mr. Sheehan was concerned about the timing for approving the project given the State earmark. Mr. Kinney thought that if the project was not able to go on the March Town Meeting, he would still have time to complete the project by the State's deadline.

Ken Roberts, 106 Walpole Street, wondered if the project would be the same quality and scale as the one proposed a few years back, given the significant drop in cost. Mr. Kinney explained that the project was not scaled back, but the previous vendor's prices were way above the regular market for playground equipment.

Project: Town Hall Artwork

Applicant: Town Manager's Office

Ted Mulvehill, Veterans Agent, presented. He explained how the Norwood Town Hall was dedicated to veterans of the Civil War and WWI. Mr. Mulvehill detailed the artwork that was displayed in Memorial Hall and in other parts of the Town Hall, which had been there since the building was dedicated on Veterans Day in 1928. Three paintings were completed by Haffner, an architect from the Harvard School of Design and a veteran from France. One of the paintings, which depicted a guardian angel looking over men leaving for war, was oil on canvas, which was restored previously in 2003, but needed restoration again. The two other paintings done for Norwood by Haffner were located in the main stairwell of the Town Hall. They were not restored in 2003 as the Town did not have the funding for them. One of the paintings, closest to the ground floor of the building, displayed an American soldier celebrating victory with other Allied soldiers at the end of WWI. The other painting depicted soldiers watching the British retreat in Boston Harbor after victory in the Revolutionary War. These two paintings are also in need of rehabilitation.

Mr. Sheehan explained that the CPC was hoping for a plan from the Manager's Office that would detail what artwork and other artifacts in Town Hall needed to be preserved or restored. Ideally this plan would include a priority ranking of necessary projects. Kevin Rutherford, representative from the Manager's Office, explained some of the services available through the New England Document Conservation Center and how they might be able to assist with a plan moving forward.

Ms. Griffin Starr was curious if there were plans for the artwork to be kept safe following restoration. Mr. Rutherford explained that after removal and restoration of the paintings, the Manager's Office would ensure that the paintings would be able to be moved to a safe storage location.

Lynne Roberts, 106 Walpole Street, wondered if there was a way to keep the artwork preserved following restoration. Mr. Rutherford explained that while they could not place a layer of varnish on the painting, there was an air quality control system now in the building that did not exist years ago.

Mr. Hall pointed out that it would be helpful to have a write up on each of the rehabilitated items after completion in order to compile a document on historical items to check out in Norwood.

Brian Jones, Norwood Record, wondered if the vendor that was solicited for the cleaning of the painting in 2003 was able to perform the service again. Mr. Mulvehill and Mr. Rutherford were not able to locate the prior vendor.

Project: Annual Town Report Preservation

Applicant: Town Manager's Office

Michael Rosen, Assistant Town Manager, presented. The Manager's Office restored batches of old Annual Town Reports during the past two CPA cycles, with the goal this year to restore 15 additional years of reports. A total of \$20,000 is being requested for the project.

Mr. Sheehan was curious exactly which years had restored Reports. Ms. Phelps explained that during the FY 2023 CPA cycle, the years 1872-1898 were restored, with miscellaneous years in the early 1900's and 1910's being restored during the 2024 cycle. Mr. Rutherford added that the project was underfunded last year, and a contingency was included in the quote they provided for this project. Mr. Sheehan also wondered how far the Manager's Office was looking to go with restoring the Annual Reports. The last year needing restoration was the 1942 Annual Town Report.

Mr. Greeley was curious if the reports were accessible to the community following restoration. Mr. Rosen stated that the reports were available to the public in the General Manager's office. Digitized versions were also available through the Library's website. Mr. Hall pointed out that some information from the front covers were missing from digitized versions of the reports.

Ms. Doyle wondered why multiple reports were returned incomplete for last year's project. Mr. Rutherford explained that the Manager's Office had underfunded the project last year, and they did not have enough funds to complete restoration for those years.

Project: Morrill Memorial Library Stained Glass Windows

Applicant: Town Manager's Office

Mr. Rosen, Assistant Town Manager, presented. He explained how summer interns had located five stained glass windows in a storage room in Town Hall. The windows were believed to be from the original construction of the Morrill Memorial Library. They wished to see the windows more accessible to the public, but did not have a location for them set. Mr. Rutherford explained the restoration process,

and assured the Committee that the windows would be accessible to the public after restoration. Part of the request includes funding to build a backlit display for the windows.

Mr. Sheehan was curious if the applicants would have an idea of where the windows would be located before they voted on the project. Mr. Rosen stated that he would have that information before the vote.

Mr. Hall wondered if there were discussions with the Library over the windows. Mr. Rosen was going to reach out to the Town Manager, who had been in discussions with the Library Director, and have the information for a future meeting.

Project: Memorial Hall Benches
Applicant: Town Manager's Office

Mr. Rosen, Assistant Town Manager, presented. The Manager's Office is looking to restore 38 antique oak benches located in Memorial Hall. He noted the poor condition of the benches and highlighted the recent restoration of the table and chairs. The proposed project will ensure that the benches last for another century. Mr. Rosen mentioned the increase use of Memorial Hall for a variety of uses and the fully refurbished set of furniture in the space will make it a more appealing venue. Mr. Rutherford detailed the level of deterioration, noting that most benches contained water damage and discoloration. He added that the restored benches would be cared for with quality after the project was completed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Anne Haley, 187 Nichols Street, wondered if the CPC could send information to abutters, or to affected district's Town Meeting members, in order to inform the neighbors of potential projects. She noted how members of her neighborhood were concerned about the Shattuck Park project that was being considered for this CPA cycle. The group discussed their application process and noted that informational meetings and abutter notification should be the responsibility of the applicant.

The group decided that the final round of public hearings would take place on January 24.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting made by Cheryl Doyle. Seconded by Joe Greeley.

Roll Call Vote:

Catherine Walsh: **Aye**
Julie Barbour-Issa: **Aye**
Cheryl Doyle: **Aye**
Joe Greeley: **Aye**
Patricia Griffin Starr: **Aye**
John Hall: **Aye**
Matt Lane: **Aye**
Joseph Sheehan: **Aye**

Result: 8-0-0 (Motion Passed)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Emily Manning