

Community Preservation Committee

Peter McFarland, Chairman
Patricia Griffin Starr, Vice Chairman
Toni Eosco
Joseph Greeley
John Hall
Matt Lane
Joseph Sheehan



**Director of Community
Planning and Economic
Development**

Paul Halkiotis, AICP

Assistant Town Planner

Patrick Deschenes

Community Preservation Committee Meeting

11/18/2020

5:30 P.M.

Remote Meeting

PRESENT:

Toni Eosco
Patricia Griffin Starr
Joe Greeley
John Hall
Matt Lane
Peter McFarland
Joe Sheehan
Patrick Deschenes, Assistant Town Planner

ABSENT: Paul Halkiotis, Town Planner

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm by Chairman McFarland.

Mr. Deschenes reminded the Committee and the public that, as this is a remote meeting, all votes must be cast by roll-call.

Approval of Minutes — October 14, 2020

MOTION made by John Hall to approve the minutes of October 14, 2020. Motion seconded by Patricia Griffin Starr.

Vote:

Peter McFarland, Chairman: **Approve**
Patricia Griffin Starr, Vice Chairman: **Approve**
Toni Eosco: **Approve**
Joseph Greeley: **Approve**
John Hall: **Approve**
Matt Lane: **Approve**
Joseph Sheehan: **Approve**

Result: 7-0-0 (Approved)

Fall Special Town Meeting

Review, Discussion, and Next Steps

Mr. Deschenes shared that the Town hopes to setup a virtual, special Town Meeting either in January or February where the CPC's article will be discussed and voted on.

CPA Applications for FY'22 — Initial Discussion

Five applications were received and are in the process of being vetted. Mr. Deschenes indicated that all applications are in the initial stages of discussion.

Mr. Deschenes then addressed the Interpretive Signage for Historic Landmarks and Locations application which he submitted, noting that it was submitted after the deadline. He stressed that this is not something that he recommends be forced for the Annual Town Meeting in May. Instead, he simply wants the project on the radar now in hopes of aligning it with the Town's 150th anniversary. It is based on similar projects in Chatham and Stoughton.

Fire Bell Removal

Mr. Hall indicated that he would like more information on John Grove and the Committee for the Restoration of Washington Hose 7's Bell. The applicants do not indicate where they recommend the bell be located. More clarity on the stakeholders involved and who should be approving the application are necessary.

Hawes ADA Walking Path

The application is co-sponsored by the Recreation Department, the Trails Advisory Committee, and the Conservation Committee. It encompasses the original ladies and gentlemen's pools situated behind the current Hawes Pool.

Mr. Greeley provided some additional information on potential funding. In conversations with General Manager Mazzucco, it was learned that the project might be a good source of funding for the ride-share (known as TNC, Transportation Network Companies) surcharge which are included in fares for companies such as Lyft and Uber. The project will seek funds from both this surcharge and the Community Preservation Committee. Should the TNC funding request be granted, then Community Preservation funds will be used to either offset the difference, or be eliminated altogether.

Mr. Deschenes indicated that the Town currently has about \$20k in TNC funds available right now. If the funds were to be used, it would need to be appropriated at Town Meeting.

Members of the Committee deliberated on the applicants and signatories related to this application. Mr. Hall cautioned that memorandums of support by those empowered to oversee the project be included in the final application.

The Committee then discussed the role of the Conservation Commission in relation to the structure of Town government. Mr. McFarland committed to determining the parties responsible and involving them as appropriate.

University Ave. Trail Study

Mr. Greeley reported that the project is a request to fund a feasibility study and initial design of walking trails on Conservation property. The land consists of a lot adjacent to the Boston Skating Club, totaling approximately 19 acres. Ultimately, the proposal will include building a walking trail that would span a one-mile loop through the property.

In addition to potential Community Preservation funds, the Town is in the process of applying for a Mass. Trails grant. A response to that grant application is anticipated by May 2021. The timing of both is roughly parallel. Should the University Ave. Trail Study receive adequate State grant funds, the CPA application will be null and void.

Mr. Greeley reported that the access point/trail head would be the sidewalk cutout and curb-cut on University Avenue where the hotdog stand is typically parked. The total area, including the cutout, is Town-owned property. The property also includes a gas line easement; work would need to take place to ensure compliance.

Winter Street Hill Overlook

Mr. Greeley reported that the Winter Street Hill Overlook is located atop what he hopes will colloquially be known as Mount Norwood (the top of the landfill). The hill is managed by the Recreation Department and the Board of Selectmen. The potential project would include decking installed no more than three feet from the ground along with appropriate signage. The overlook will be part of the existing trail from the Father MacAleer pool and Savage Center, parallel to Germany Brook, toward the Willett School. Mr. Greeley indicated that he would hope to offset expenses with volunteer materials and labor.

Mr. Hall expressed caution on using the word "landfill" in the application and was concerned about odor. He also recommended that information on the beneficiaries of the project be outlined in the application.

Mr. Greeley stated that Mt. Norwood is capped by a thin membrane of material, as is typical of landfills. There are strict restrictions and guidance on what can and cannot be done atop a landfill. At one time, the Town Light Department explored potentially installing a solar array at the site.

Ms. Eosco stated that the fact that this is the highest elevation in Norwood should be included in the application as the view from the site is intrinsically valuable.

Interpretive Signage for Historical Landmarks and Locations

Mr. Hall expressed support for the project and feels that it is a wonderful way to increase the accessibility of interesting historic information.

Mr. Deschenes indicated that a working group would be required to research information, put together a catalog of information, and determine the design of the signs. The total number of signs would need to be explored.

CPA Business and Updates

Status of Approved Projects

Carillon Restoration: There are two parts to the bid: foundry and painting. The bid on the foundry work has been received. The foundry work came in at \$205k, which is within the allocation. The bid for the painting of the tower is being reviewed.

Lower Balch/Eliot Park Rehabilitation: Benches have been installed. The structure is on order; Town Facilities Dept. will install after it is received.

St. Gabriel's Chapel: Mr. Greeley reported that he has not received a response to his email requesting an update.

Financial Review

The \$200k State match has been received.

Recording Secretary Formal Introduction

John Cianciarulo was formally introduced as the Committee's Recording Secretary.

Mr. Deschenes reported that Katherine Walsh has been appointed as the Conservation Commission's representative to the Community Preservation Committee.

There has been no update on the position vacated by John Aprea. Mr. Lane reported that he believes an update would take place at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Deschenes indicated that he would update the Committee once he learned more about the availability of the Carillon expert to visit Norwood. The progress of the Carillon Restoration and the Fire Bell Removal projects hinges on his visit.

Mr. Greeley reported that a trail and property cleanup took place at the Saint Streets lot. He thanked the body for its support. An RFP for the preliminary trail design of the lot is being drafted.

Adjournment

MOTION made by Mr. Hall to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Greeley.

Vote: Peter McFarland, Chairman: **Approve**
Patricia Griffin Starr, Vice Chairman: **Approve**
Toni Eosco: **Approve**
Joseph Greeley: **Approve**
John Hall: **Approve**
Matt Lane: **Approve**
Joseph Sheehan: **Approve**

Result: 7-0-0 (Approved)

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Articles/Exhibits Used at Meeting

- Documents, including applications, related to CPA Projects 2020-2021
- Fire Bell Removal
- Hawes ADA Path
- Interpretive Signage for Historic Landmarks and Locations
- University Ave Trail Study
- Winter Street Hill Overlook
- Draft meeting minutes of October 14, 2020 for the Committee's review and approval.
- Memo from H. Jones to Board of Selectmen, dated October 28, 2020, regarding election of new Conservation Commission CPC representative
- Memo from P. Halkiotis to T. Mazzucco, dated November 13, 2020, regarding Community Preservation Projects -- 2020-2021

Minutes respectfully submitted to the Committee by John Cianciarulo.