

**Northampton Community Preservation Committee Minutes  
February 5, 2020**

**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Place:** City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street (BEHIND City Hall)

Brian Adams	✓
Linda Morley	✓
Julia Chevan	✓
Chris Hellman	✓
Jeff Jones	✓
Martha Lyon	✓
Dan Krassner	
Jack Finn	✓
Alan Verson	✓
Sarah LaValley - staff	✓

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**General Public Comment**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

Linda move to approve the October 16, 2019 minutes. Seconded by Chris, the motion carried unanimously.

**Chair's Report**

Brian welcomed Alan Verson, new Planning Board representative, and Dan Krassner, new elected representative to the Committee. Brian stated that he attended the grand opening of the Dial Self youth housing facility. It is a beautiful, net-zero building.

**Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Chris nominated Brian to serve as Chair and Linda as Vice Chair. Seconded by Martha, the motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Update**

Sarah stated that an additional \$153,573 was received in the second round of budget surplus distribution.

**Discuss Small Grant Applications and Make Funding Recommendations**

Brian provided an overview of the small grant process. The Committee can recommend funding or not recommend funding, or kick to the full grant round.

*Lathrop Communities Invasive Species*

Barbara Walvoord provided an overview of the project and previous invasive treatment efforts. Barbara read from a Fish and Wildlife booklet regarding threats posed by invasive species; Lathrop's goal is to keep the area free of invasives and ecologically viable. CPA funds are being requested only for the area protected by a conservation restriction held by the City. Linda requested that if funded, detailed invoices be submitted to separate the funding sources and areas.

Brian noted that adjacent areas, such as the Cotton Tree Service parcel, also have invasive problems, and asked if they have been approached to help protect the work completed at the Lathrop facility. Barbara stated that they have not, but that could be a future effort.

Linda moved to recommend funding at the \$3,000 requested. Seconded by Jack.

Chris noted that full eradication of invasive plants is not really possible. Barbara stated that there is a great deal of volunteer follow-up.

Brian asked if there are any conflicts in the Lathrop community about use of herbicides. Barbara replied that there have been some discussions, but the use is very targeted and has been effective. The motion carried unanimously.

#### *Broad Brook Coalition Habitat Improvement*

Alan recused himself from discussion for this item.

Bob Zimmerman, Broad Brook Coalition, (BBC) provided background on BBC and Leeds Civic Association's efforts to manage six acres along Route 9. CPA funding was received to create trails, a wildlife blind, signage and remove invasives. Work is nearly complete, but the group realized that continued brushhogging and invasives control is necessary. Garlic mustard removal is done by hand, and CPA funds are requested to help with bittersweet and knotweed.

Linda stated that brushhogging seems like an ongoing task, expressed concern about ongoing maintenance costs, and asked if there is any way to get work done otherwise. Bob suggested that there may be ways to complete work with neighborhood volunteers, but that needs should be reduced following an initial investment. Martha noted that the work is also proposed as a habitat restoration for wood turtles and grassland birds.

Linda moved to recommend funding at the \$3,000 requested, with an understanding that a follow-up application is not expected. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Schedule, Site Visits**

The Committee agreed that site visits are not necessary, and that all meetings with applicants can take place in one meeting.

#### **Other Business**

The Committee agreed that it would be useful to have staff provide a presentation about permanent conservation and agricultural preservation restrictions.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.