

Northampton Community Preservation Committee Minutes
April 4, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm
Place: City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street

Members Present: Brian Adams, Martha Lyon, Julia Chevan, Jeff Jones, Chris Hellman,
Linda Morley, Jack Finn
Members Absent: David Whitehill
Staff Present: Sarah LaValley

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

General Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

January 17, 2018. Linda moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Martha, the motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Report

Brian stated that the projected estimated state match is very low, at only about eleven percent of local funds collected. Sarah added that this will not change finances for the current round or the remainder of the fiscal year.

Project Update - Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity

Megan McDonough, Pioneer Valley Habitat Executive Director stated that homeownership applications for Garfield Avenue are being accepted.

Site work and modular estimates for the Glendale Road project have increased significantly, and she wanted to discuss a possible return to stick-built with the CPC since modular was the construction method presented and approved. A grant would have covered the increase from traditional stick-built to modular, but no longer will with the projected cost increase.

Linda asked if this change would affect the timeline of the project. Megan replied that there are more constraints with stick-built.

There was consensus that a change in construction methods do not alter the overall project and that no further action is needed related to CPA funding.

Jeff asked for an update when the final decision is made.

Chris noted that CPA funding for unanticipated costs will likely not be available.

Financial Update

Sarah stated that there is \$123,000 currently available. First Churches will likely be returning approximately \$30,000 in unspent funds now that the window restoration project is complete. She will follow-up and have information at the next meeting.

Discuss Funding Recommendations for Round 1 2018 CPA Funds

Brian stated that with the reduction in the Academy of Music from the original request, there are \$219,000 in total application requests.

The Committee discussed the possible matching MassHistoric grant for cemetery stone preservation. Sarah stated that the state grant would only be able to fund work at a cemetery already listed on the state register of historic places, which made Park Street and West Farms work not eligible for funding. If the state grant application is successful, the CPA request can be reduced to \$75,000, or additional funding could be utilized for priority 2 stones or other work. The Committee discussed funding recommendations as a shopping cart.

Historic Preservation Plan

Chris moved not to fund the project at this time. Seconded by Jeff. Martha stated that the Historical Commission will work to reframe the proposal based on feedback received from the CPC at the previous meeting. Jeff stated that he hopes the proposal is revised and resubmitted in the fall. The motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Area Interpretive Signage

Julia moved to fully fund the project at the \$2900 requested. Seconded by Jack.
Chris stated that he is appreciative that this is being presented as a pilot program at this point, with a plan to incorporate into project budgets moving forward if successful.
The motion carried unanimously.

Academy of Music

Linda moved to fund the project at \$54,000. Seconded by Julia.
Martha questioned the urgency of the work at this point.
Linda noted that the work proposed will complete the auditorium project.
Julia suggested fitting the award to the available budget. The Committee agreed that the amount recommended could be revisited following completion of other project discussions.
Martha suggested that it would be helpful to see the Academy's master plan for upgrades and improvements.
The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Cemetery Markers

Chris moved to fund the project at the full \$100,000 requested. Seconded by Jeff.
The motion carried unanimously, with one abstention by Martha.

Brian recapped that the Committee has placed \$159,900 into the shopping cart; with \$123,000 available, and \$30,000 possibly being returned in the next two weeks after completion of the First Churches window restoration.

Julia moved reducing the Academy of Music recommendation to \$50,000, and further reducing to as low as necessary if First Churches is not able to return excess funds. Seconded by Linda, the motion carried unanimously.

Chris moved to finalize the conservation area signage recommendation as discussed. Seconded by Linda, the motion carried unanimously.

Linda s moved to finalize historic cemetery recommendation as discussed. Seconded by Julia, the motion carried unanimously, with one abstention.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.