

**Community Preservation Committee (CPC)**  
**Town of Great Barrington**  
Minutes of January 2, 2014  
Great Barrington Town Hall

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**1. Call to Order**

Members present: Jessica Dezieck, Martha Fick, Suzanne Fowle, William Nappo, Deborah Salem, and Karen W. Smith. Also present: Christopher Rembold, Town Planner.

Absent: Thomas Blauvelt, Andrew Blechman, Kathleen Jackson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM by Chair Karen Smith.

**2. Administrative Business**

Dezieck moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2013, Nappo seconded. All were in favor.

**3. Community Preservation Planning**

Housing, Historic, and Open Space groups worked at separate tables in the room to discuss their review of key plans and data. The committee reconvened at the main table to hear summaries from each group.

*Housing:* Smith said the Housing subgroup felt that affordable housing was the town's most acute need. The group felt that funding should work with existing housing groups, who are already trying to address the issue. Housing should be infill housing, meaning it is reusing buildings or sites where infrastructure already exists. Housing should use innovative and green design whenever possible, including energy efficiency to help reduce the operational costs of heating and cooling, for example. Rather than just funding large projects, applications with even just a few units would be a good size. Rembold asked if small projects should be considered before larger projects. Fowle said not necessarily. Rather, preference should be for projects in appropriate locations; good planning should be the key factor. All agreed.

*Historic:* Dezieck said historic preservation projects should have an educational component to them. The projects should work to educate schoolchildren and public about the importance of the particularly building or object to the town's history. This will ensure that public money benefits the public in many ways. All agreed. She also said that rather than limiting CPA funding to certain types of historic projects, the CP Plan should use invite a range of applicants. The Plan should use the general Master Plan goals for historic preservation. Also historic-related CPA projects will have to fit into the legal requirements anyway. She suggested town-owned assets and projects with Historic Commission support should have a higher funding priority. All agreed.

*Open Space/Recreation:* Salem said open space projects should similarly benefit the public. It is important that people can see, understand, and directly benefit if possible from CPA projects. Fick gave an example, saying that preserving private property as open space should only be done if there is public access or an educational component. The assets that CPA is used for should be promoted. All agreed.

The Committee discussed some other ways to prioritize funding decisions. The Committee agreed that projects applying for CPA funds should not just rely on CPA funds. Even when CPA funds are the first money for a project, CPA funds should be just a part of the overall project. Applicants should discuss their overall funding strategy. All agreed.

Fick used the historic walk tour smartphone app as an example of promotion. She suggested trails also be listed. Smith said that would be a good way to make sure people know what resources we already have in town. We need to better use and care for existing assets. All agreed.

The Committee agreed that the Community Preservation Plan should use the Master Plan's 13 "Core Initiatives" as a guide. Funding should be for projects that are consistent with those principles. All agreed. Fowle suggested that a benefit of CPA projects should be to "deepen our sense of place." Funds should be used for projects that support our natural heritage and promote our knowledge of town. All agreed.

Dezieck said projects that have applied for and received required permits should be higher priority. Smith said the project's receipt of appropriate permits should be a condition of releasing CPA funds to a project. All agreed.

The Committee agreed that a two-step application process should be used. First applications should be reviewed for eligibility. If eligible, projects would be requested to submit a full application to the Committee.

Rembold agreed to take the information from tonight's discussion and begin to draft a CP Plan and an application for the Committee's review. He will send it out in time for the next meeting.

**4. Reports from Committee Members**

Fowle said the Planning Board is working on housing-related zoning amendments for May Town Meeting. Nappo said he will be informing the Historic Commission of the Committee's discussions. Dezieck has asked the Conservation Commission to discuss CPA at its next meeting. Smith said she has briefed the Parks and Recreation Commission about the CPA.

**5. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 16 at 6:00 PM at the Fire Station on State Road.

**6. Adjourn**

Hearing no further business, Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Materials presented or distributed for this meeting:

- Draft Minutes of December 9, 2013 meeting
- Samples of CP Plans and applications from other towns