

## **Town of Great Barrington Community Preservation Committee (CPC)**

Minutes of June 14, 2016

Great Barrington Fire Station, 37 State Road

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Members present: Ed Abrahams, Thomas Blauvelt, Jessica Dezieck, Martha Fick, Jeremy Higa, Kathleen Jackson, Bill Nappo, and Deborah Salem.

Also present: Town Planner/CPA Administrator Chris Rembold and Nan Wile, prospective new appointee from the Housing Authority

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Town Planner Chris Rembold. Smith had not yet arrived.

### **Reorganization**

There was a discussion whether to reorganize now or to wait until any new committee members were appointed by the other boards. Abrahams made a motion to reorganize now as planned and Jackson seconded. Nappo asked what the urgency was and if there was some work that we could not start without reorganizing. Fick said she didn't think it mattered and we could begin work now, and reorganize later. Dezieck said we are starting the planning work now, so we should reorganize. Blauvelt said we should have the structure in place to do our work. The vote on the motion was 6 in favor and 2 against (Fick, Nappo).

Rembold took nominations for Chair.

Dezieck nominated Smith. Abrahams nominated Blauvelt.

In discussion, Jackson said she believes committee chairs should rotate. She said Smith did an excellent job for three years and she thanked Smith for her leadership. Fick agreed with Jackson. Nappo said that early on, Smith was a strong leader and we should give her another term. It was difficult to get up and running and she helped us do that.

Abrahams said he felt comfortable nominating somebody different because we are in a good place.

### **Administrative Items**

While waiting for Smith to arrive, Dezieck asked for a vote on the minutes of the May 24, 2016 meeting. Abrahams moved to approve, Blauvelt seconded, all were in favor.

Smith arrived late after her Parks and Rec Commission meeting. She noted she was reappointed by them as the representative to the CPC.

### **Reorganization (continued)**

Rembold asked for a vote for Smith and a vote for Blauvelt. Four people voted for Smith (Dezieck, Fick, Nappo, Smith) and five voted for Blauvelt (Abrahams, Blauvelt, Higa, Nappo, Salem).

Blauvelt asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Abrahams nominated Dezieck, Salem seconded. There were no other nominations. All were in favor.

### **CPA Planning**

Blauvelt started off by saying the Finance Committee met earlier to discuss the CPA Plan. They had no specific comments except to ask the Committee to look favorably on Town projects. He said that the

Town Manager has some thoughts, however that he would share. He said there will be a number of applications from the Town but the timing backs us up to November. He said it takes Town staff a while to develop the applications and asked that we look at the deadlines. Jackson asked why they could not start working on them now. Fick asked how many applications there would be. She said we cannot wait that long for Step 1.

Rembold said there are two deadlines that shaped our work early on. He said when we began this process two years ago we were instructed by the town's administration to finalize CPA recommendations so that they could be built into the Town's budget process. So our calendar that first year reflected that. He said that also we had holiday scheduling constraints. Finally Smith was going to be away, so the Committee decided for all those reasons to get reviews done in November and December.

Smith said if the town's ducks are not in a row that is not our problem. This group cannot be held hostage over the holiday season. That was brutal for us and for the people who come before us.

She said we'd have to wait until February or March to avoid the holidays. Jackson said then that winter weather could impact us. Rembold said there are a lot of other meetings that time of year already for budgeting and zoning; you have almost no days in February and March that are actually free for us to meet.

Nappo said the deadlines should be adhered to and there should be no exceptions. Fick said they should start working on the projects now. Dezieck agreed.

Abrahams said he had not yet met with Selectboard to discuss the plan. He said opinions so far from individual members are request to set aside funds for an affordable housing trust fund, and to consider a good chunk of money for town projects.

Higa said the Planning Board will meet next month.

The Housing Authority, Historic Commission, and Conservation Commission have not met yet.

It was decided that the Public Hearing on the plan should be held before the Step 2 application process begins because it is important to get public comment. The committee agreed to have the hearing on July 19 at 5:30.

Blauvelt asked for comments on the Plan.

Smith said people should pay attention to CPA uses chart and pick only one box, that best applies to their project.

Rembold asked the Committee to consider whether you want to put more detail in the plan.

Jackson said she would like to promote projects like providing sidewalks and connections between neighborhoods and downtown, as well as Housatonic to Great Barrington.

Abrahams said the ultimate check on our priorities is the town meeting vote.

Rembold said he would advertise the public hearing in the newspaper. He said all Committee members should discuss this with their boards.

### **Timeline for Next Grant Cycle**

Dezieck suggested we stick to the same deadlines. Jackson said we need to publicize that you can get approved for Step 1 as early as now. Fick said we need to tell our committees. Rembold said he would inform the Town Manager.

Smith moved to have Step 1 applications be accepted on a rolling basis not later than by September 1 at 4:00 and Step 2 due not later than October 3 at 4:00. Ten copies and one digital are due before that deadline to the Town Planner's office. Dezieck seconded. Vote was 8-1 (Abrahams against).

On motion by Smith seconded by Dezieck the Committee voted unanimously to meet September 1 at 5:30 to review Step 1 applications.

#### **Set Next Meeting Date**

July 19 is the public hearing.

The Committee agreed to meeting on August 23 also to review any Step 1s.

The Committee agreed to meet October 11 to being to review Step 2 applications.

#### **Citizens' Speak**

None

#### **Adjourn**

After motion to adjourn by Smith, seconded by Dezieck, Blauvelt adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher Blauvelt", is written over a horizontal line.

