

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

Minutes of July 11, 2017

Town Hall, 334 Main Street

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Members present: Ed Abrahams, Jessica Dezieck, Jeremy Higa, Bill Nappo, and Karen W. Smith.

Not Present: Thomas Blauvelt, Martha Fick + two vacancies

Also present: Town Planner/CPA Administrator Chris Rembold

**Call to Order** 5:30 PM by Vice-Chair Smith

### **Administrative Items**

Abrahams moved to approve the draft minutes of June 19, 2017. Nappo seconded. All were in favor.

### **Reports from Committee Members**

Nappo mentioned the Historical Commission is working on its property surveys project, the "Form B" historic inventories funded by a CPA grant last year. They should be done this summer or fall.

### **CPA Plan**

The Committee reviewed the CPA plan including July 11 revisions by Rembold. He said his overall goal was to add more detail to the text, to outline the existing conditions and needs of the three CPA funding areas. He also put more detail in so the Committee would be able to better prioritize and target its spending in the coming year. Rembold also suggested in the draft plan some types of projects or names of projects that the Committee could consider including, if there was a desire for that level of specificity.

There was discussion about the suggested addition that says the Committee would recommend a minimum amount of funding, 30 percent, to the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust. Rembold said in this way the Housing Trust would act almost as the affordable housing arm of the CPA, using CPA money and following CPA rules. Rembold said they are more of the housing experts than the Committee is. Rembold said this could be a goal, and not an absolute rule or standard.

There was discussion about the types of housing projects the Trust might undertake, and whether other housing projects would be able to still apply to the Committee for CPA funds. All noted that they expected the Trust to submit an application to the Committee for this funding. Members hoped the Trust would develop a track record of successful housing projects so that funding of the Trust would be regularly approved by Town Meeting.

There was discussion about the Historic resources section of the Plan, including the suggested priority that the first listed priority is to use CPA funds to preserve and restore Town owned buildings. There was discussion about whether to list specific projects, which the Committee expects will arise in the coming year, as funding priorities. The Committee decided not to list specific projects, in part because doing so might discourage other worthy projects from applying for CPA funds.

In the Open Space and Recreation section of the Plan the Committee discussed prioritizing funds to certain projects. The Committee decided not to list Lake Mansfield or the southern River Walk trail specifically in the draft Plan, instead favoring more general statements about prioritizing spending on parks, recreation areas and recreation connections.

Smith asked each of the Committee members to check with their boards and commissions and get their comments on the CPA plan, to discuss at the public hearing.

Smith asked Rembold to incorporate the changes discussed tonight and publish the draft CPA plan for public review. The public hearing will be August 7 at 5:30.

**Citizen Speak Time:** None

**Next Meetings**

Monday August 7 at 5:30 at the Fire Station

**Adjourn** 6:55 PM

Materials Presented/Distributed for this Meeting:

- Draft minutes of June 19, 2017 meeting
- Email of July 11 from Mr. Rembold containing current CPA Plan with draft revisions for consideration by Committee

Minutes prepared by: 