

Town of Great Barrington Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

Minutes of July 21, 2015

Great Barrington Fire Station

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Vice Chair Jessica Dezieck.

Members present: Ed Abrahams, Thomas Blauvelt, Jessica Dezieck, Martha Fick, Suzanne Fowle, William Nappo, and Deborah Salem. Members absent: Kathleen Jackson, Karen W. Smith
Also present: Town Planner Chris Rembold

Administrative Business

Fowle moved to approve the minutes of June 16, 2015 as amended, Salem seconded. Rembold had sent an amendment to the Committee via email. All were in favor.

Blauvelt moved to approve payment of the Community Preservation Coalition invoice of \$1,750 dated July 6 for the 2015 calendar year, from CPA administrative funds. Fowle seconded, all were in favor.

Public Hearing CPA Plan

Rembold read the public hearing notice that was published June 26 and July 3.
Blauvelt moved to open the public hearing, Fowle seconded, all were in favor.

Rembold gave an overview of the CPA law and the requirement to annually review the CPA plan. He summarized the draft CPA plan issued on June 17.

There were no comments from the public.

Fick asked whether Step 1 applications are required, or can they go step 2 right away? Rembold said our process requires Step 1 and then Step 2.

Fick asked what would happen if there was an urgent need for a CPA project, for example if a piece of land was for sale or a building needed urgent preservation? Rembold said our application form clearly allows for out of sequence applications in the case of emergency situations. Fick asked if there would have to be a Special Town Meeting. Rembold said probably, if it is an urgent situation that could not wait until the regular May town meeting.

Blauvelt asked why they CPA chart has four columns, but we say CPA has three main purposes. Rembold said it is standard to say there are three purposes. Those are the areas you have to spend or reserve 10 percent each year for a total of 30 percent (rather than a total of 4 purposes at 10 percent each). Mass DOR generates the chart for informational purposes.

Blauvelt moved to close the public hearing, Fowle seconded, all were in favor.

Abrahams moved to approve the draft 2015 CPA plan as presented, Fowle seconded, all were in favor.

FY 17 Step 1 Applications

There were no Step 1 applications for review.

Reports from Committee Members

Fowle asked about the Construct application status. Abrahams said the project applied for a Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit from the Zoning Board. The Zoning Board began the hearing on July 15 and continued it until August 4.

Nappo said he will ask Joe Sokul if the DPW will be applying for any CPA funds this year.

Abrahams said that Karen Smith did discuss a CPA application with the Parks Commission to construct handicapped accessible bathrooms at Memorial Field.

Dezieck said Conservation Commission may consider a project in partnership with BNRC and Housatonic Solar for trails.

The Committee discussed the language in question #2 of the CPA application. The suggested language reads "Describe any other funding that has been sought or is available and whether or not it can be used for this project." Dezieck thought that language was clear but wondered if it could be stronger. If we got more detailed we would be asking for every budget report the ever had. Nappo said we need to have transparency. The Committee decided on the following language: Describe all funding that has been sought and/or is available for this project.

Blauvelt moved to approve this amendment to Step 2 application, Fowle seconded, all were in favor.

Next Meeting Dates

Upcoming meeting dates are as follows:

- August 18: if needed to review any Step 1 applications received
- September 8: review last of Step 1 applications received
- October 6: begin review of Step 2 applications
- October 15: continue review
- October 20: continue review
- October 27: continue review
- October 29: continue review

Adjourn

Blauvelt moved to adjourn, Fick seconded, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Materials presented or distributed for this meeting:

- Draft minutes of June 16 meeting
- Draft CPA Plan

Respectfully submitted:

