

Community Preservation Committee
Minutes of Meeting
February 16, 2011
Hildreth House

Members present: Charlie Gorss, Don Boyce, Chris Cutler, Deb Thomson, Debbie Ricci, Wade Holtzman, and Michelle Catalina

Invited Guests: Ron Ostberg, Marie Sobalvarro

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Minutes of January 19, 2010 were approved as amended.

Marie Sobalvarro discussed funding of the Municipal Building Committee proposal to restore town buildings. She said that a bond would be possible for all projects and queried whether the CPC should recommend that a percentage of the bond be financed with CPC funds. Deb Ricci stated that she does not recommend two separate bonds and noted that CPC funds cannot be used to pay down a bond for operating expenses. The CPC could however own a portion of the bond. She said that the CPC could commit funds beyond the grant cycle for bonding purposes.

Members discussed the cost of energy efficiency in restoration of the town buildings. Ron Ostberg stated that the State Historical Commission is aware of the energy efficiency costs. Wade said that he wants to ensure the state will agree to funding before the CPC commits any money.

Ron noted that CPC funding can be used for accessibility costs. Members discussed the financial packaging of the project and noted that voters at ATM would choose how to structure the finances. More design work is needed for Town Hall, and the earliest date to begin work on Town Hall would be Fall 2012. Members queried whether Town Hall repairs could be put off without further damage. The MBC has contracted with a restoration architect who is looking at whether temporary repairs are needed pending longer term repairs. Don noted the sunset date for the CPC grant to repair Town Hall is June 2012.

Wade raised the issue of Historic Preservation rules and their lack of clarity. It is not clear what buildings and areas in Harvard are subject to Historic Commission jurisdiction. Members discussed possibly trying to increase the CPC surcharge to a higher level. Don said that he is reluctant to commit to this and others questioned whether it would be supported by the town.

Don presented the warrant articles approved by members at the previous CPC meeting and assigned members to present the articles at Town Meeting. Don moved that the warrants be revoted to include sunset language and the motion was approved unanimously. Members voted unanimously to approve payment of \$750 dues to the Community Preservation Coalition.

Members discussed the status of open projects. Chris said that the Historic Commission and the Cemetery Commission still have not talked about jurisdiction of the Shaker Cemetery and how to move forward on preservation of the Shaker grave markers. The sunset date is June 30, 2011 and probably will not be spent. Fruitlands has spend its grant. It was agreed to ask Janet Vellante for an update on her grant expenditure status.

The next meeting will be March 16th. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.