

Community Preservation Committee
Minutes of Meeting
July 18, 2012
Hildreth House

Members Present: Deb Ricci, Deb Thomson, Chris Ready, John Lee, Michelle Catalina
Guests: Didi Chadran

The meeting convened at 8 pm. Members reviewed and approved the minutes from the June 20th meeting as amended. Members reviewed the CPC calendar for the coming grant cycle. Deb Ricci produced a long and a short form of calendar. After discussion members agreed that a short version on the calendar would be posted on the town website and a longer version would be used by CPC members. It was moved and approved that a notice of the coming grant cycle would be posted in the press and committee chairs would be contacted and reminded that applications are due by September 28th. Deb Ricci clarified that the notice would be posted in the Post, Press and Hillside publications.

Members discussed possible changes to the application form proposed by Deb Ricci. It was agreed that we should add language asking about other funds available to organizations to fund the requested grant. We should also ask whether approval of a grant is required by another group and if so what group. This may include endorsement by any of the following groups: Harvard Historic Commission; Harvard Conservation Commission; Mass Affordable Housing Trust; or Harvard Parks and Recreation.

Members also agreed that funding of grant applications should be evaluated in part by its relationship to the CPC 5 year strategic plan goals. Deb Ricci will incorporate changes and share with members for their review.

Deb Ricci circulated a draft Grant Application form for comment. Many questions were raised and comments offered about the role of oversight by the Board of Selectmen. Deb Ricci will incorporate comments and bring to the next meeting for review and approval.

Due to time constraints members agreed to postpone until the next meeting a discussion of Rules and Regulations and the Policy Statement on grants to private parties. They discussed briefly the pending appointment process for filling the vacant seat on the Committee. Deb Ricci will ask to meet with the Board of Selectmen to interview potential candidates (in this case only Didi Chadran).

Deb Thomson briefly discussed provisions of the Community Preservation Act recently passed by the State Legislature. Among other changes the statute now permits CPC funds to be used for rehabilitation and restoration of properties but not for routine maintenance. This includes replacement of playground equipment and capital improvements.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.