

## HULL PLANNING BOARD

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April 20, 2016

**Members Present:** Jennifer Constable, Chair; Joseph Duffy; Jeanne Paquin; Nate Peyton, Jason McCann

**Members Not Present:** Stephen Flynn, Harry Hibbard

7:30 p.m. J. Constable called the meeting to order

### 7:40 p.m. Public Forum regarding Community Preservation Act (CPA)

This was a televised forum designed to inform the public about the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Constable gave a PowerPoint presentation which covered the basics of the CPA including but not limited to the following:

- An overview of the CPA
- How CPA funding works, including local contribution and state funds
- How a CPA plan is created
- The formation and composition of the CPA Committee
- How projects are submitted and approved
- Advantages and benefits of the CPA to the community
- Exemptions from the CPA by household size and income limits for seniors and low-income households

Following her presentation, members of the commissions that will be represented on the CPA planning committee, and which could be directly affected by the CPA, made brief presentations on why they supported the CPA and the kinds of projects their commissions could accomplish with the generated funds.

- Ed Whelan said that under Parks and Recreation's current budget, programs are funded, but the department is not able to make needed upgrades or repairs to existing equipment or fields. These could include: a new play structure at the Dust Bowl field; crack-sealing basketball courts; fencing tennis courts; backstops for baseball programs; baseball netting for the L St. field; and equipment sheds.
- Sheila Connor of the Conservation Commission stated that projects that could be possible with CPA funds are the Richards Road path around Straits Pond; signage at open view areas; and the eradication of phragmites.
- Dennis Riley of the Hull Historic Commission noted that there are numerous historic buildings in town that need work, including the Town Hall, the original town hall, Fort Revere, the library, the Lifesaving Museum and boathouse, and the A St. Fire Station.
- Michael Flaherty, Director of the Hull Housing Authority, said that the HHA's operations budget is very limited and capital improvement needs are high. Possible projects include a generator for the senior housing building; security and accessibility upgrades; outdoor space for seniors; and a playground for family housing.

Constable added the following:

- CPA funds can be used to leverage eligibility for state and federal grants.
- They can be "banked" or saved up for projects that require more substantial funds to complete.
- Buildings can be declared historic by the town (rather than by the state).
- Approximately \$500,000 will be available to the town in the first year.
- Passage of the CPA will require a simple majority at Town Meeting and at the November election.

- The percentage of the tax levy is proposed at 1.5%.
- The town can repeal the CPA after five years, but thus far no towns in the Commonwealth have done so.

The forum concluded at 8 p.m. and was followed by a short recess.

**8:15 p.m. Other Business/Comments:**

The Board discussed what steps remain before presenting the CPA to Town Meeting. McCann will work on the PowerPoint and a possible video presentation. Copies of the flyer will be on hand for distribution. Board members will reach out to the following commissions to see if they have photos that correspond to possible projects:

- Conservation Commission (Paquin)
- Housing Authority (Duffy)
- Historic Commission (McCann)
- Parks and Recreation (Peyton).

**At 8:25 p.m. the Board voted unanimously to adjourn, on a motion by Paquin, seconded by Duffy. The next meeting of the Board will be held on April 27, 2016.**

Minutes approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5-25-16