

Lenox Community Preservation Committee
January 30, 2008
Minutes

Members present: Roscoe Sandlin (RS), Midge Sandlin (MS), Andrea Winter (AW), Joe Strauch (JS), John McNinch (JM), Olga Weiss (OW), Joseph Kellogg (JK), Scott Pignatelli and Fred Keator (FK).

Also in attendance: Mary Albertson (MA), Town Planner.

RS, Chairman, opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

MA distributed the minutes from the last meeting. Members will review and take action at the next meeting. RS noted that this evening the CPC will meet with the first group of CPC applicants.

Westinghouse Streetlamps for Lenox

Pam Kueber, Chair of the Westinghouse Streetlamps for Lenox group opened by thanking Marcia Brown and Suzanne Pelton for their many years of work on the Westinghouse project. The fundraising group met with village property owners to raise money for the engineering study. The study will cost approximately \$25,000 and the group has raised approximately \$22,000. The group met with Jeff Vincent, Greg Federspiel and Mary Albertson to discuss the study. Once the study is complete - light installation will begin on Church Street. The group requests \$140,000 for Church Street light installation. RS noted that the Selectmen are reviewing the Capital Improvement Budget and there might be an opportunity to fund a more comprehensive village improvement project. He noted that the project is important for economic development and historic preservation.

OW asked about the funding year and green technology. It was noted that the group is exploring green technology. JK asked if the cobra lights would be removed and Pam Kueber stated that the cobra lights would be removed. SP likes the project but is concerned about the long-term maintenance and energy costs. He asked if anyone has talked to Mass. Electric. Pam Kueber suggested continued fundraising to endow an account for energy and maintenance costs and said that Jeff Vincent talked to Mass Electric. JS asked if there would be lights on both sides of the street. Pam Kueber stated that she is not sure until the light study is complete, but she believes there will be lights on both sides of the street. He also asked if the group is working to restore the original lights. Pam stated there are approximately 12 original lights and the group is working to restore the lights. JM asked about other grant opportunities. Pam Kueber said the group is dedicated to working on other grant opportunities.

Historical Commission – Inventory Project

AW stated that the Historical Commission is withdrawing its application because the state is not funding survey projects for non-certified communities at this time.

Housing Authority – Curtis Porch Project

Martha Joyner, Executive Director of the Housing Authority opened by introducing the Housing Authority members in attendance: Cynthia Nasman, Marjorie Pero, Teresa Noyes and Marjorie Sandlin. Tom Barthelette, DHCD Construct Manager, was also in attendance to answer questions. He noted that the decking is in poor shape. All work will be done to maintain the historical value of the porch. If the town appropriates CPA money to this project – DHCD might

also contribute money to the restoration. AW and SP voiced concern because the building is owned by the state and the state should maintain the property. It was noted that the state just made roof repairs to the Curtis and they prioritize work to be completed. JK asked about procurement laws. Discussion ensued regarding local contractors completing the work. This project is small enough that local contractors can compete for the project.

Church on the Hill Project

Elizabeth Sherman and Bob McNinch were present to represent the Church on the Hill. It was noted that the application and the proposal prepared by Don W. Fitzgerald Remodeling do not match. It is noted that the Don W. Fitzgerald Remodeling proposal is correct – the work to be completed is for the clock tower only. FK wanted to clarify that the match of \$76,000 is for work that was already completed. Elizabeth Sherman and Bob McNinch stated that they hoped the town would view the recent \$76,000 expenditure as a match. JK asked if the Church could leverage other money from Mass. Historical because the property is on the National Register. He noted that the town owns the clock tower. SP said it was the most historic and photographed building in Berkshire County. AW said the Historical Commission would be delighted to assist the church with applications to Massachusetts Historical Commission. She questioned this project because it is a repair and not restoration. Discussion ensued regarding routine repairs/maintenance vs. restoration. CPA money is for restoration and not routine repairs. Members will discuss this matter at a future meeting.

George Bisacca Cannon Project

Representative Smitty Pignatelli presented the project. Bob McNinch was also present to discuss the project. Representative Pignatelli explained that the money will pay for wheel repairs. The cost breakdown is \$3000 for the work to restore the wheels in Amish Country – Pennsylvania and \$2000 for transportation costs. SP said he likes the project. JS asked who George Bisacca was and why he was important in the history of Lenox. He also asked if the cannon is significant in the history of Lenox. Smitty Pignatelli explained the George Bisacca was a popular citizen of Lenox and did a great deal for the community. The cannon has historical significance and was donated to the town as a memorial to George Bisacca. FK asked how the town will maintain the cannon once it is repaired.

Ralph Petillo, Manager of the Lenox Chamber of Commerce spoke in favor of all the projects. The Curtis Building is very important because it is located in the center of town.

Members discussed future meeting dates and after much discussion agreed on the following:

2/6/2008 @ 6:30 PM – Finish Applicant Interviews

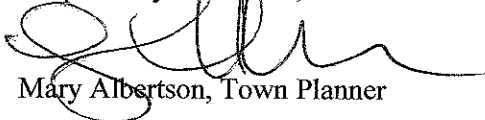
2/14/2008 @ 5:00 PM – Project Selection

3/6/2008 @ 6:00 PM – Public Hearing

3/27/2008 @ 5:00 PM- Finalize Project Recommendations for Town Meeting

MS made a motion to adjourn at 7:40PM and AW seconded - all members in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary Albertson, Town Planner