

Community Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2015
Room 112 – 7:00 PM
110 Main St
Monson, MA

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Monson Community Preservation Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Leslie Duthie at 7:06PM.

Members in attendance: Chairwoman Leslie Duthie, Tamara Cabey and Karen King. Also in attendance were Mary Watson, Jamie Messer, Suzanne Kelley, David Sanborn, Roy Brown and Mary Gelezunas.

The minutes from the February 3, 2015 meeting were read, a motion to approve was made by Ms. Cabey, seconded by Ms. King, voted unanimously. The minutes from the November 4, 2015 meeting were also read, a motion to approve was made by Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Cabey, approved unanimously.

Birth Records Preservation Application

Ms. Watson and Ms. Messer presented their application for the preservation of the birth records. This will include twenty one birth books ranging from the years 1859 to 1983 and one parent verification of birth dating from 1945 to 1948 for a total of twenty two books. The amount of funding requested is \$28,010. Ms. Watson presented the recently restored Selectman's Minutes book from the years 1795 to 1846. Ms. Duthie stated that while she greatly appreciates the preservation of records, funding at this time is limited. Ms. Watson is willing to negotiate on the entirety of the project and perhaps break it up into smaller amounts. Ms. Duthie recommended that large projects be submitted in the fall. Ms. Duthie advised Ms. Watson that the committee has two additional projects to consider and will advise Ms. Watson of the CPC's decision.

Available CPC Funding

As of February 2015, the following amounts are currently available: Budgeted Reserve - \$82,912, Open Space - \$11,746.83, Community Housing - \$206,566.83, Historic Preservation - \$11,146.83.

First Church of Monson

Ms. Kelley and Mr. Sanborn presented their application for the First Church of Monson. They have requested \$84,680 to paint the exterior of the church. The estimate was given by Cameron Painting of Amherst. This project will include the power washing, scraping, priming and painting the entire church except the steeple, which had been replaced after the tornado. Ms. Duthie questioned if the painter is qualified to do historic preservation. Ms. Kelley stated she believed this to be the case. Ms. Duthie also asked if a paint analysis was done to ascertain the original color. Ms. Kelley said a color analysis had not been done. Ms. Duthie advised Ms. Kelley of the number of current project applications and asked how the church will proceed if the entire amount requested was not available. Ms. Kelley stated they would prefer waiting until the entire amount was available to proceed. It was agreed that this application be held for review in the fall. A color analysis will also be required at that time.

Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson

Mr. Brown presented the application for painting and restoring the exterior of the church. The amount requested is \$49,500. This includes \$45,000 for scraping, priming and painting the exterior, \$2,000 for replacing rotted shingles, and \$2,500 for replacement window and door sealants. Mr. Brown had a collage of pictures showing close-ups of varying degrees of peeling, leaking and rotting to the structure. Ms. Duthie then asked how the church would proceed should the entire amount not be available. Ms. Gelezunas and Mr. Brown stated that the church would begin work on their own. They have a very capable staff of volunteers who have done a very professional job restoring the inside of the church. Since the \$49,500 was not an actual estimate, Ms. Duthie asked what the church would do if the bids came in higher than the requested amount. Ms. Duthie explained if the bid is higher once the process has begun, it will not be possible to request additional funds. Again, Mr. Brown stated that the volunteers would pick up the slack.

Discussion of Projects

The \$84,680 requested by the First Church of Monson is not available at this time. Ms. Cabey made a motion to hold the application until the fall. Ms. King seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Ms. King made a motion to approve the preservation of birth records, seconded by Ms. Cabey, all in favor, and the motion passed. Ms. King made a motion to approve the Unitarian Universalist Church project, Ms. Cabey seconded the motion, all in favor, and the motion was passed,

The question of unused funds by Memorial Hall was raised. Ms. Duthie stated she is not sure if any remaining money must be returned and re-appropriated or can it be rolled over to the next Memorial Hall project. The Memorial Hall Committee would like to hire an architect that is familiar with similar historical buildings to compile a punch list of all items remaining to complete the project. The CPC will consider appropriating a yearly sum toward the Memorial Hall project. Other possible venues for money include bonds, grants and involving the people of Monson, the Historic Commission and Selectmen.

With all agenda items discussed, Ms. King made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Cabey, all in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:38. The next scheduled CPC meeting will be held April 7, 2015.