



## TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH Community Preservation Committee

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • 508-393-5019 • 508-393-6996 Fax

---

Approved 11.2.17

### Community Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes October 5, 2017

**Members in attendance:** John Campbell, Chairman; Norm Corbin; Kathleen Polanowicz; Leslie Harrison; Todd Helwig; Peter Martin;

**Members excused:** Andy Clark; Sean Durkin

**Others in attendance:** Kathy Joubert, Town Planner; Elaine Rowe, Board Secretary

**Chairman John Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:09PM.**

**White Cliffs** – Chairman Campbell explained that the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator have requested that a committee be formed to explore possible uses for the White Cliffs property now that it is owned by the town, with one designee from this board to be appointed. After some discussion, members of the board agreed to appoint Kathleen Polanowicz to the White Cliffs Committee.

**FY2019 CPA Applications** – Ms. Joubert distributed copies of the applications for CPA funding, and noted that the public hearing will be held on November 2, 2017. In response to a question from Mr. Helwig about the application deadline, Ms. Joubert indicated that she had granted an extension to the Northborough library. Mr. Helwig voiced his understanding that the roof on the old section of the library building is leaking.

Ms. Harrison noted that there are no applications from the Trails Committee. Ms. Joubert confirmed that there are not, and commented that the Trails Committee still has money in their account for parking lot and trail work at Hop Brook.

Ms. Polanowicz asked if it is possible to use community preservation funds on a privately-owned dam. Ms. Joubert indicated that it is.

**Town Common** – Ms. Joubert expressed her understanding that the landlocked property at 20 rear Gale Street may be placed in a trust and donated to the town, so there is an application for additional funds to incorporate that parcel into the design for the town common.

**Signage** – Ms. Joubert emphasized the importance of getting signage posted at the CPA projects through town.

**Historical projects** – Ms. Joubert stated that the Unitarian Church has submitted two applications. Mr. Corbin voiced a preference to restore old windows, but noted that he has found some examples using historically appropriate replacements. He also commented that the church was rebuilt in 1950, and there are three options for the windows, including restoration, antique windows, or removing the windows, replacing with thermoplane glass and reinstalling. Ms. Joubert commented that it is twice the cost to restore the windows than to replace them. Chairman Campbell indicated that precedence has shown that windows can be covered by CPA funds, though he understands there has been some debate over whether religious property can benefit from CPA funds.

**Other applications** – Ms. Joubert explained that there are two applications for Open Space (one from the Open Space Committee and one from the Recreation Department) and one application for affordable housing. Chairman Campbell voiced his belief that lighting cannot be covered using CPA funds and he thought this was one of the issues with the proposed application from the high school a couple of years ago. Ms. Joubert agreed to review meeting minutes to refresh her memory.

Ms. Joubert explained that she has not yet reviewed any of the applications in detail. Chairman Campbell commented that the lighting should be covered by the school budget. Mr. Corbin asked if we can confirm whether it is an allowable use of CPA money. Ms. Joubert suggested that it would fall under improvements, which is allowed. Mr. Helwig stated that he would like to understand who will use the fields, and suggested that such use should be open to many different groups.

Mr. Corbin highlighted some of the historical projects funded by the CPA, including:

- 3 historical markers, installed by the DPW
- New cemetery signs for the 3 cemeteries
- Mark Fidrych historic marker installed at Memorial Field, which was greatly appreciated by the family.
- Ground penetrating radar data collected at the Brigham Street burial site, where it appears there may be as many as 80 people buried.
- Repair and restoration of colonial cemetery stones.

Chairman Campbell asked if the kiosk at the cemetery will be updated. Mr. Corbin indicated that he would like to have it replaced, and he has located the parent of the scout who built the original kiosk and they still have the plans.

Mr. Corbin noted that the steeple at the Unitarian Church was replaced and looks good.

Ms. Polanowicz asked about the number of years that the CPA has been in place in town and suggested recognizing the anniversary with a retrospective brochure. Chairman Campbell recalled that the first year that funds were awarded by this board was 2006.

Ms. Joubert explained that Rita Carlson from the Housing Authority has expressed an interest in joining the board. She also agreed to check with the Recreation Director about whether Sean Durkin is still interested in serving.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:46PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Rowe  
Board Secretary