

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2019

A regular meeting of the Community Preservation Committee was held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall, room 110.

Present: Rich Scanlon, Vice Chairman & Acting Chair, Mary Leach, Member, Marlies Henderson, Member, Tom Conway, Member, Joe Fiumara, Member, Doug Meagher, Member, Matt Battcock, Member and Katie Mahoney, Community Preservation Coordinator

Absent: Jim O'Donnell, Chairman and Travis Brown, Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman & Acting Chair Rich Scanlon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated the meeting was being audio recorded.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one came forward

FINAL REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:

In total the committee reviewed five (5) applications; Rich Scanlon asked if there were any questions on the following four items:

- The First Parish Church – Steeple Rehabilitation and Restoration
- Billerica Fire Department – 1926 Maxim Ladder Truck Restoration
- Billerica Public Library – The Great Deed Preservation
- Billerica Affordable Housing Trust – Affordable Unit Purchasing

One question was raised by Marlies about the Housing Grant Agreement from FY2018 and whether it had been completed. Katie stated that she was pretty sure the Housing Authority was an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), and not a Grant Agreement. The Housing MOU is complete and Katie will send Marlies a copy of the completed Housing MOU.

- The Masonic Hall Association – Historic Preservation

The Committee discussed the 18 page Building Evaluation/Inspection report provided and there was a question raised on how the Masonic Association arrived at the \$359,000 figure for the building repairs. Discussion on whether or not the Masonic was in a position to do a 50/50 split of funds with the Town ensued.

The Committee would like the Masonic to provide quotes for the roof and sidewall work. Further discussion ensued about approving an amount less than the \$359,000 and let the Masonic Hall come up with the rest for their repairs. The Committee discussed that they would like to see the Masonic contribute more to help maintain their own property. The Committee asked Katie to email the applicant for cost estimates from contractors for the roof and sidewall work and also to prioritize their top five projects. Once Katie has the information, she will email the committee as an FYI / no response necessary and they will review it all and make their final decision at the Public Hearing on April 4, 2019.

PRELIMINARY WARRANT ARTICLE REVIEW:

Tonight’s packet included a draft of the preliminary warrant article for Spring 2019 Town Meeting. Discussion about whether or not the warrant article should be broken out into two articles ensued. It was stated that previously this is how it had been done.

Rich Scanlon stated the article as presented was an exact duplicate to how Concord has set up their warrant article. Marlies Henderson voiced concern about the budget not having a separate article. Matt Battcock stated that the budget is within the one warrant article.

Doug Meagher brought to the Committee’s attention that the “Source” buckets should not be filled in and the word “Reserve” should be removed from the “Source” titles.

Marlies Henderson stated that FY 2020 has not been budgeted yet. The FY 2020 budget has to be created and Doug Meagher suggested that somewhere in the warrant article that \$855,000 is appropriated for FY 2020.

The Committee agreed to delete the “Category” Column and where the word “Source” is now, change to “Category” and remove the word “Reserve”. Katie was asked to make these changes and submit to the Town Manager’s Office.

Mary Leach seconded by Doug Meagher make the motion to accept the Preliminary Warrant Article as discussed and amended for submittal to the Town Manager’s Office.

It was voted: 6 – In favor
Marlies Henderson 1 – Opposed

COORDINATORS REPORT:

The preliminary warrant article has been the primary focus. The Public Hearing on April 4th will be posted in the Lowell Sun on March 20, 2019.

Katie is still waiting on the Clara Sexton House for their Preservation Restriction Agreement. All other projects are moving forward.

FISCAL UPDATE:

Katie Mahoney stated that there are no significant changes since the last meeting. The new balance of the Administration Fund is now \$27,102.67.

MINUTES:

Marlies Henderson, seconded by Mary Leach made the motion to amend the February 28, 2019 minutes to reflect the comment regarding the Grant Agreements not being complete and the Housing Authority still working on them with Town Counsel.

It was voted: 7 – In favor
0 – Opposed

Joe Fiumara seconded by Matt Battcock made the motion to accept the minutes of February 28, 2019 as amended.

It was voted:

7 – In favor
0 – Opposed

MISCELLANEOUS/CORRESPONDENCE – NOT OPEN FOR DISCUSSION:

N/A

ADJOURNMENT:

Joe Fiumara, seconded by Mary Leach made motion to adjourn.

It was voted:

7 – In favor
0 – Opposed

Vice Chairman & Acting Chair Rich Scanlon adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Joyce MacMillan
Recording Secretary