

CPC
Approved
Kerri Rufo

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2022**

A Public Meeting of the Community Preservation Committee was held on Thursday August 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conferencing Communication App, Kerri Rufo hosting.

Present: Travis Brown, Chairman; Doug Meagher, Treasurer; Joe Fiumara, Member; Tom Conway, Member; Janet Morris, Member; Jim O'Donnell, Member; and John Speidel, Member and Chief Assessor

Absent: Diane DePaso, Member and Matt Battcock, Member

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Travis Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:

Doug Meagher - Aye
Tom Conway - Aye
Joe Fiumara - Aye
John Speidel - Aye
Janet Morris - Aye
Jim O'Donnell -- Aye
Travis Brown - Aye

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TOWN CLERK
BILLERICA

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marlies Henderson, Billerica Resident – Marlies went over how the CPC began, their campaigns, the first committee and Marlies was the first chair and wrote the original bylaw in 2016. She has studied the CPA and would like the committee to pay attention to her comments regarding today's eligibility forms. The Masonic Hall is listed as complete. However, it is not. The capital improvement for the Vining will not conflict with a potential Stool Recreation Building. Also, please consider involving those who initiated the Peace Garden idea.

Kelley Sardina asked that the committee check their records. They have the Masonic purchase price listed as \$683000; it should be \$643000.

VOTE TO ACCEPT UPDATED CP PLAN PAGE 20:

Chairman Brown asked if anyone had any comments regarding the changes to page 20 of the plan. Janet Morris asked about the excess monies allocated for a project that was not spent, does it come back to the CP account? It does, it goes back into the fund bucket it was allocated from.

Finance update will be on Sept 8, 2022

Joe Fiumara seconded by Tom Conway made a motion to approve the Community Preservation Plan for page 20 as amended.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted (7-0)

Janet Morris – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Jim O'Donnell – Aye
Joe Fiumara – Aye
Tom Conway – Aye
John Speidel - Aye
Travis Brown – Aye

PROJECT UPDATES:

Joe Fiumara stated that due to the Recreation Dept being so busy with summer programs, there is not an update for the skate park at this time. As soon as the summer programs are complete, they will be working on the skate park.

Clancy Main stated that the Howe School is about 90% complete, expected to be completed by the end of September. BATV will begin moving in the third week of September. There is some technology delay due to the computer chip issues. Clancy spoke with Stuart Saginor from the Massachusetts Community Preservation Coalition to give him a run down on the project and he said it was a great project success story and a great project in general.

Also, the PHR Project is about 4 or 5 months ahead of schedule. They plan on doing the planting next planting season due to drought and the lateness of the season. This project was being talked about at the American Athletic Sports Builders Association annual meeting as one of the future projects to win an award.

Betty Bigwood went over the updates for the Middlesex Canal Museum project. They are almost finished with the soffits and facia. There is a little more brick work to be completed on the water side of the building. Currently the sewer pumps and lines are going in. There is no electricity in the building yet, they are waiting for the Inspector to allow them to connect to National Grid. There is a 4 to 6 month delay on windows and doors. Everything is costing more; construction cost has nearly doubled. Hoping to move all their items from their current location to the attic of the new location by the end of September to help save money by not having to pay monthly rent of the current location.

ELIGIBILITY FORMS:

First Congregational Church Façade Restoration - Rev. Dr. Katherine Adams and Jim O'Connor made a brief presentation. FCC is looking to preserve their structure; the original portion of the building was built in 1829. There are two other sections, the middle was built in 1929 and the back portion (the Hall) in 1955. They are looking to repair the foundation, drainage improvements, electrical upgrades, fire suppression and an elevator.

Chairman Brown asked the committee if they thought the project was eligible. All the committee members that were at the meeting did agree that it was eligible. There were

a couple comments regarding historical preservation restrictions, and we may need to obtain legal opinion.

MBTA Right of Way – Clancy Main – The Town is looking to purchase the parcel of land known as the MBTA Right-of-Way, shown on Assessors map 60 as parcel 80-3.

Chairman Brown asked the committee if they thought the project was eligible. All the committee members that were at the meeting did agree that it appears to be eligible. There were a few comments made regarding a dollar amount for a place holder, maybe a possible utility easement for income to the town, project should not be rushed through and follow guidelines. Also, there is an old rail building that's been abandoned and would like to see the purchase of that building and land incorporated with this project.

Open Space Rec Plan – Clancy Main – The Town is required to have a current Open Space and Rec Plan on file to apply for State Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space grants. The current plan is expiring in 2025. If approved for the Fall 2022 Town Meeting could be completed by November 2024 and if approved for Spring 2023 Town Meeting it could be completed by March 2025. Also, 5% of the annual CPA revenue can be budgeted to support the CPC's statutory responsibilities.

Chairman Brown asked the committee if they thought the project was eligible. All the committee members that were at the meeting did agree that it appears to be eligible. The committee comments were mostly regarding the 5% from the CPA admin and operating expenses and there was a comment about putting in on the Spring Town Meeting instead of in the Fall.

Vining Baseball Field 50/70 – Robert Maynard – The Town would like to create a 50/70 baseball field at the Vining property for intermediate baseball use. The Little League approached the Town with this idea.

Chairman Brown asked the committee if they thought the project was eligible. All the committee members that were at the meeting did agree that it appears to be eligible. Again, there were only a couple of comments, more about not being put forth as a special case for all Town Meeting, the committee should follow the rules that they voted in. Also, Billerica has a clear shortage of fields and there could be a benefit to moving this up,

The committee decided after hearing Clancy speak about the three previous projects, that they will meet on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 3:00 pm. All the committee members except one were in favor of meeting on Monday.

Peace Garden – Robert Maynard – This would be a garden for reflection and remembrance for the families and friends of those that lost their lives to addiction.

Chairman Brown asked the committee if they thought the project was eligible. All the committee members that were at the meeting did agree that it appears to be eligible. The committee would like to see more detailed information for this project.

Masonic Hall Façade - Robert Maynard – This building needs lots of TLC, the front façade is very deteriorated and out of compliance with current ADA code.

Chairman Brown asked the committee if they thought the project was eligible. All the committee members that were at the meeting did agree that it appears to be eligible.

Community Garden – Robert Maynard – This project would be for funding additional garden plots at the Vietnam Veterans Park Community Garden

Chairman Brown asked the committee if they thought the project was eligible. All the committee members that were at the meeting did agree that it appears to be eligible.

Clancy noted that the Town would be bringing forth a few more projects for the Spring Town Meeting.

MINUTES: June 9, 2022, amended minutes, and June 14, 2022, minutes

Joe Fiumara seconded by John Speidel made a motion to approve the amended minutes of June 9, 2022

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted (6–0-1)

John Speidel - Abstain
Janet Morris – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Jim O'Donnell – Aye
Joe Fiumara – Aye
Tom Conway – Aye
Travis Brown – Aye

Joe Fiumara seconded by John Speidel made a motion to approve the minutes of July 14, 2022, as amended

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted (6–0-1)

John Speidel - Abstain
Janet Morris – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Jim O'Donnell – Aye
Joe Fiumara – Aye
Tom Conway – Aye
Travis Brown – Aye

OTHER BUSINESS:

Next Meeting date is August 15, 2022

Joyce MacMillan has resigned her position as the recording secretary for the Community Preservation Committee. She has been the recording secretary since March of 2018. The committee thanked her for her time with the CPC.

Just a side note, thank you all. I enjoyed my time with the CPC! Always a learning experience. Joyce

ADJOURNMENT:

Joe Fiumara, seconded by Doug Meagher by made motion to adjourn.

A roll call vote was taken
It was voted (8-0)

Janet Morris – Aye
Doug Meagher – Aye
Jim O'Donnell – Aye
Joe Fiumara – Aye
Tom Conway – Aye
Matt Battcock – Aye
Travis Brown – Aye

Chairman Travis Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Joyce MacMillan
Recording Clerk