

**Northampton Community Preservation Committee Minutes
January 6, 2016**

Time: 7:00 pm
Place: City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street

Members Present: Brian Adams, Jack Finn, Julia Chevan, David Drake, David Whitehill,
Chris Hellman, Linda Morley
Staff Present: Sarah LaValley

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

General Public Comment

None

Welcome New Members

The Committee welcomed new elected members David W. and Chris, and members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

November 4 and November 18, 2015

David D. moved to approve. Seconded by Jack, the motion carried unanimously

Chair's Report

Brian stated that the Rocky Hill acquisition received a Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity grant, so the CPA award will be reduced to \$55,000.

Approve Contract and MOU extension language

Grow Food Northampton Community Gardens

Northampton Historical Commission, State Hospital Fountain

Linda asked if it would be possible to have an extension document. Sarah stated that a full contract is needed.

Linda suggested language to make clear that the new contract is an extension of the previous award, and a correction on the Grow Food Northampton cover letter to indicate the term of one year.

David provided an overview of the Memorialization project. The Historical Commission will be asking the Mayor's help to get the park parcel transferred to the City so that work can begin.

Linda moved to approve both documents. Seconded by David, the motion carried unanimously.

Review 2016 Round 1 Application Review Schedule

The Committee agreed not to meet during February vacation, and will leave tentative dates for meetings with applicants until the number of applications is known.

Review Draft 2016 community Preservation Plan

Brian summarized the intent and purpose of the Plan – to outline needs and possibilities, and provide guidance for applicants and Committee members.

Julia noted that a lot of the needs outlined in the Recreation section have been accomplished, and there is now more need for work to existing facilities. She will provide suggestions to Sarah by email for inclusion.

Linda suggested edits regarding use of CPA funds for privately owned structures.

David D. noted that the Plan is intended to be general, and ownership would not preclude CPA funding.

Chris asked if that issue is limited to historic projects, and suggested that a statement could be added to the general project criteria.

The Committee discussed past CPA projects for privately owned property, noting that all had a benefit to the overall community.

Linda will provide a revision to Sarah, for inclusion in the overview section of the Plan.

Linda suggested that the 99-year affordable housing restriction referenced in the housing section not be absolutely required, and could instead reference what state funding requires. A very long-

term restriction can lock a community into lower incomes. State funds are competitive and projects that propose longer-term restrictions tend to receive funding, but 99 years is not always required.

The Committee discussed restrictions, noting that CPA contributions are often a very small part of the overall funding for housing projects, and agreed that some flexibility in the language could be added. Linda will draft an edit and provide to Sarah.

Sarah will update the percentages of protected open spaces as well.

The final draft version will be posted on the CPC website, and Sarah will send to the Committee.

A public comment session will be held at the January 20 meeting, and the CPC can then approve the Plan.

Jack asked about the Committee's thoughts on how the Small Grants review went in the past round. The Committee agreed that it worked well and that edits at this point aren't necessary.

Other Business Not Foreseen When Agenda Was Published

David D. stated that the Committee is process-oriented and ethical, and a careful steward of public funds, and again welcomed new members.

Adjourn

On a motion and second, with unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM