

Northampton Community Preservation Committee Minutes
May 4, 2016

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

Members Present: Brian Adams, Chris Hellman, Linda Morley, Jack Finn, Debin Bruce ,
David Drake, David Whitehill (7:45)
Staff Present: Sarah LaValley

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

General Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

April 6, 2016

Debin moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Chris, the motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Report

Brian stated that there is still no Housing Authority representative to the CPC. If a representative is not appointed the City Council could appoint someone.

The Community Preservation Coalition provided an update on expected state matching funds for FY17. Sarah noted that these are less than in prior years, and are again dependent on a state budget surplus.

Complete funding Recommendations for Round 1 2016 CPA Funds

Jim Laurila, City Engineer, and Ariel Dungca, Stimson Associates, provided additional information on the Pulaski Park project.

Linda asked if there have been change orders that have resulted in higher project costs. Jim stated that the majority of change orders have been related to underground utility work, since it includes unknown conditions, but some contingency funds should be left over.

David D. asked about the exact boundaries of the Academy property. Jim replied that the park property extends nearly to the Academy wall, and that the project helped to regain some rear space for park use.

Jim stated that the Academy board was shocked at the high cost of the loading dock and related elements, but the high costs include elements that will help to create a more usable park, including landscaping and tables.

Debin stated that she expressed concern about the South Street crosswalk years ago. That was later moved, but other concerns noted at that time regarding the space to the rear of the Academy were not heard or addressed, and if they had been, a cost savings would have been possible.

Debin asked if the soil in that area has been compressed due to construction. Jim replied that root zones have been protected, and the soil will be aerated and augmented as needed. Ariel added that an arborist has also been involved.

Jack asked if there is a cost savings involved in doing the work at the same time as the rest of the Park. Jim replied that once design is complete, a quote can be obtained from Mountainview, the contractor for Phase I to see if it would make sense to add now, if the quote is high it can be added to the bid package for Phase 2.

David D. asked if designs are finished. Jim replied that they are only concepts at this point.

Brian asked for clarification about which parts of the proposal are for the Park, and which are for the Academy. Jim replied that some elements, such as stairs, will facilitate use but will be part of the Park area.

Debin noted that the designs for this area should have already been addressed, and she is concerned about added costs for this work.

David D. stated that Stimson and Associates had communicated that the loading dock area would need to be designed later in the process, but there was no sense at that point that the design would have an extra charge, and asked if this was left out of the original design contract. Jim replied that there are different levels of design, and construction-ready plans are required.

Chris asked what would be constructed if additional funding were not provided. Jim replied that a new gravel area would be installed.

David D. thanked Jim for his service to the City.

The CPC agreed that providing CPA funds to the area to the rear of the Academy is acceptable, as it is Park land.

Linda stated that she would not be in favor of an additional request if bids come in high, and current contingencies should be retained. Chris added that DPW should be made aware that future funding may not be possible.

Linda suggested that the new DPW project manager for the Park should be made aware of the CPA history.

Review and Approve Funding Recommendation Council Orders

The Committee reviewed funding Orders as presented by staff, and made changes that are reflected in the final Orders as sent to City Council.

David W. moved to approve all orders as amended. Seconded by Chris, the motion carried unanimously.

Review and Approve MOU for Leeds Historic Signage Project

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

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.