

**Northampton Community Preservation Committee Minutes
February 6 2019**

Time: 7:00 pm
Place: City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street (BEHIND City Hall)

Brian Adams	✓
Linda Morley	✓
Julia Chevan	✓
Chris Hellman	✓
Jeff Jones	
Martha Lyon	✓
David Whitehill	✓
Jack Finn	✓
George Kohout	✓
Sarah LaValley - staff	✓

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

General Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

November 14, 2018. Linda moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Chris, the motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Report

Brian noted that the schedule has been updated to reflect a small amount of submitted applications. Questions from Committee members on this round's applications should be submitted to Sarah as soon as possible.

The 'Act to Preserve Community Preservation' is under consideration, and Northampton's State Representative and Senator are both co-sponsors.

Community Preservation Coalition Dues - Presentation Followup

The Committee discussed the presentation by the Coalition.

Jack stated that he was impressed with the amount of lobbying on behalf of the CPA. Linda added that she had primarily thought of the Coalition as a technical resource, and was not aware of the extent of lobbying and defense of the CPA, and that it would be worth joining to support statewide efforts.

Chris suggested that it is difficult to quantify effects of lobbying, and it can be easy to take credit for an outcome regardless of role, and that lobbying may not be necessary for advocating additional funds being allocated to local districts.

George suggested that the Coalition provides important assistance to smaller communities without staff, and asked about effect of Coalition dues on the budget for projects. Sarah replied that dues are taken from the 5% administrative set-aside, and all funds remaining in that account at the end of the year are returned to the Undesignated fund and can be spent on projects.

Linda noted that Northampton has received the benefit of budget surplus several times.

Jack suggested that a partial payment could be an option.

Linda moved to resume full membership in the Coalition. Seconded by George, the motion carried 7-1.

Housing Discussion Debriefing

The Committee discussed a possible additional set-aside for community housing, and agreed that would not result in creation of new units.

David suggested that an additional representative from the Housing Partnership be considered by the Mayor and City Council.

Sarah updated the Committee that impact fees from short-term rentals are intended to be dedicated to affordable housing.

Discuss Small Grant Applications and Make Funding Recommendations

Brian stated that there is \$300,000 available for the remainder of the Fiscal Year, with four submitted small grants and three full applications.

Lathrop Communities Invasive Control

Barbara Walvoord, Lathrop Community, stated that the Land Committee is working on a multi-year program to remove invasive plants and increase public education.

Linda asked if additional small grants will be needed. Barbara stated that this might be possible, but volunteers will be able to tackle many areas.

George asked about limitations on public activity. Barbara replied that the trails are not safe for bikes, and dogs must be leashed.

Barbara stated that herbicides are used in the least amount possible, with primarily cut-stump treatments and limited foliar spraying where necessary. Damage to surrounding plants has not been documented.

Brian asked if the Easthampton CPA has funded the project. Barbara stated that they have not, primarily the Northampton portion has been treated.

Martha asked about re-infiltration of invasives in followup areas. Barbara stated that 5-10% of the vegetation at followup was invasives; bittersweet and multiflora rose resprout and require followup, but control seems to be achieved after the first year of followup.

Linda moved to fund the project at the \$3000 requested. Seconded by Julia.

Martha asked if funding the project would conflict with the discussion about herbicide opposition at the community garden. Julia noted that a policy regarding herbicide use doesn't yet exist, and there has not been expressed opposition to this work.

Jack noted that the proposal also includes an advocacy group with dedicated volunteers.

The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Northampton Textiles

Martha moved to fund the project at the \$3000 requested. Seconded by Linda.

Martha noted that the Historical Commission discussed the application briefly, noting that it is eligible since funds will be used to preserve items for the long-term.

David noted that the work is direct preservation of artifacts, and that there is \$64,000 in the Historic Reserve. The motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Area Signage

Jack moved to fund the project at the \$3000 requested. Seconded by David.

Jack noted that the application demonstrates stewardship of open spaces. Linda asked if the award will be sufficient to cover the backlog of necessary signs. Jack stated that it should be.

George noted that the signs will also provide credit to CPA funding.

Julia suggested that budget details would be helpful. George noted the real labor match of stafftime to install.

Martha asked about relation to the City's overall signage program. Sarah stated that trail markers have different standards based on partner organizations, and that entranceway signs for the City are also being pursued.

The motion carried unanimously.

Northampton ONE Trail

Julia moved to fund the project at the \$3000 requested. Seconded by Linda.

Jack noted that the trail will maximize land already owned by the City.

Linda asked about connection of existing gaps. George stated that the trail is a multi-year plan.

David stated that creation of a loop trail would be visionary for Northampton, and that trails like this exist in Europe.

The Committee discussed gaps and challenges, and the need for technological integration and digital maps.

The motion carried unanimously.

Site Visits

Sarah will set up site visits for March 2.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.