

**Northampton Community Preservation Committee Minutes
March 20 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

January 16, 2019. George moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Martha, the motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Report

None

Public Comment Session on CPA Applications

Broad Brook Coalition (BBC) Invasive Control

Bill Williams, BBC Board of Directors, stated that Fitzgerald Lake is a special place with many different habitats, some of which are threatened by invasive plants. BBC began a management program several years ago and would like to continue making progress,

Maura Bradford, BBC Board of Directors stated that BBC would like to preserve ecological integrity of the area.

Open Space Acquisitions

Bob Zimmermann, BBC, noted that the project includes four very different parcels that are each important and serve different needs, including wildlife habitat, bike path access, and filling gaps in wildlife corridors.

Kate Buttolph, MassAudubon, noted connections to existing wildlife corridors.

A resident stated that the City's open space program is incredible and encouraged support of the application.

Adele Paquin spoke on the importance of bicycling opportunities in the City which this project will help to support.

Florence National Register Historic District

Suzanne Love, Ruggles Center volunteer, stated that people are always surprised about Northampton's connection to important national history during historic walking tours, and this project will help to publicize those people and events.

Dylan Gaffney, Forbes Library Historian stated that collaborative programs on Florence history draw large crowds and interest, and encouraged funding the project.

John Bollard, former director, African American National Biography project, stated that he learned during that work how important Florence is, and studied three Florence residents who

conducted transportation protests similar to Rosa Parks' in the 1800's. A National Register designation is important to increase awareness.

Sarah Lenox, Ruggles Center volunteer, noted that Northampton has a history of social justice, but many people are not aware of this aspect, and the project would help to change that.

Stephanie Pasternak, Ruggles Center volunteer and the Center for New Americans noted the parallels between fugitive slaves and undocumented immigrants, and that living history in Florence could potentially make a difference in peoples lives.

Christopher Sparks stated that he studied the Northampton State Hospital and expressed support.

Steve Strimer read a statement from Bonnie Parsons, retired Pioneer Valley Planning Commission historic planner, expressing support for the project.

Nancy Childs stated that the area is an example of living history that can be a resource for schoolchildren and the larger community.

Tris Metcalfe expressed support for the project and promotion of the history of race.

Request to Extend Historic Northampton grant

Linda moved to extend the contract to allow Historic Northampton to finish their work.

Seconded by Julia. George asked if extensions are a common request. Sarah replied that they have happened a few times, and staff recommends extensions be issued as long as projects are moving forward. Julia noted that this was an extensive project that has been making progress, and she is confident about the grantee's ability to expend the remaining funds.

The motion carried unanimously.

Begin Funding Recommendations for Round 1 2019 CPA Funds

The Committee agreed that the 'shopping cart' does not need to be used due to the amounts of requests and funding available.

Fitzgerald Lake Invasives

Chris moved to fully fund the project as requested. Seconded by Julia.

Cris noted that the City Council Committee on pesticide reduction will be moving forward, and additional discussions may provide input to future applications of this type.

George stated that the plan presented is well-thought out, with informed decisions to use herbicide only as necessary.

Martha noted that scientific points of view on glyphosate differ, and risks are low if it is used in a controlled way.

The motion carried unanimously.

Florence Abolition National Register District

Martha moved to fully fund the project as requested. Seconded by Chris.

Martha noted that this funding would be able to be taken from the historic reserve account.

Linda stated that presentations were articulate and interesting, and that lots of hard work has already gone into the project.

Martha suggested that it would be helpful to encourage the Ruggles Center to seek press coverage and provide later public programming. Brian added that it was great to hear the public comments about this project.

Chris noted that the application does not include a clear next step, and that will be incumbent on the community to become educated about the history of the area. Martha stated that the Historical Commission can be involved in outreach.

Julia noted that the Ruggles Center has accomplished a great deal with very few resources.

The motion carried unanimously.

Priority Acquisitions

Julia moved to fully fund the project as requested. Seconded by Jeff.

George noted that the application also discusses acquisitions occurring concurrently, and wants to make sure that CPA funds will not be requested for those. Sarah stated that funding sources are in place for all of these other acquisitions, and no CPA funding will be utilized. The motion carried unanimously

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.