

**Northampton Community Preservation Committee Minutes
February 17, 2021**

Time: 7:00 pm
Place: Remote Online Meeting

Brian Adams	✓
Linda Morley	✓
Julia Chevan	✓
Chris Hellman	✓
Jeff Jones	✓
Martha Lyon	✓
Dan Krassner	✓
Jack Finn	✓
Vacant - Planning Board Rep	
Sarah LaValley - staff	✓

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

General Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Linda move to approve the November 4, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Jeff, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair's Report

Brian noted that Alan Verson has resigned from the planning board and is no longer able to be the representative to the CPC. Brian noted that covid has increased the importance of open spaces generally, and how it is critical to have them available locally.

Financial Overview

There are \$338,000 in total requests for the round in eight projects, and more than \$500,000 available. In FY22, debt service payments will be reduced from the higher amounts in the past few fiscal years. Sarah noted that all debt service for previously bonded projects will end in FY27.

Discuss Small Grant Applications and Make Funding Recommendations, Historic Northampton Collections Storage

Brian noted that options for the small grant round are to recommend funding all or in part, not recommend funding, or bounce to the full round for review.

Kelsy Sinelkov, Historic Northampton Collections Manager, and Betty Sharpe, Co-Executive Director, provided an overview of the project; a discrete collections management improvement to appropriately store important resources that can be done while the museum is closed due to covid. Collections must be organized in order to inventory them. It is an example of a project that is a roadblock to another project, and will address much of the archive backlog that need to be dealt with,

Martha moved to recommend full funding as requested. Seconded by Julia.

Martha asked about a roof leak that is evident in some of the photos included in the application. Betty replied that this was already addressed with a previous CPA grant. The Committee discussed online collections management and access during covid; Historic Northampton is working to increase resources available online. Martha noted that the Historical Commission unanimously supported the project.

The motion carried unanimously.

Funding Round Schedule, Site Visits, Virtual Meeting Needs

The Committee agreed that all meetings with applicants should be scheduled for the same meeting.

Regarding site visits, Jack suggested that weather could make scheduling a challenge and individual visits seem best. Sarah will flag the boundary of the open space parcel along the bike path, and request short videos from Historic Northampton and Lilly Library.

Community Preservation Coalition Dues Request

Linda moved to approve \$4350 from administrative funds. Seconded by Jack. Chris noted that it is difficult to quantify the benefits of lobbying, and questioned efficacy of the expense. The motion carried 7-1.

Other Items

The Committee discussed rental assistance programs, which are being funded through other sources in Northampton and have not needed CPA funds yet as they have in other communities, and possible ways to potentially seek additional applicants in future rounds.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.