

**Northampton Community Preservation Committee Minutes
March 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

Chris move to approve the October 2, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Linda, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair's Report

Brian noted that HD1851, a bill that would eliminate multiple registry CPA surcharges for affordable housing properties is being discussed in the statehouse. Historic Northampton has provided a revised budget for the Shepherd Barn/Damon House project, the overall request is the same but some line items are different. Additional support letters have been received and are available in the online file cabinet.

Public Comment on CPA Applications

Historic Northampton, Shepherd Barn & Damon House

Bob Fazzi expressed support for the project; the property is the largest in downtown, and the Museum's leadership has an understanding of the past and vision for the future.

Paul Should encouraged support, noting that he has photographed the barn and it is a special place.

George Kohout stated that Historic Northampton has been a good steward of CPA funds and has a wonderful vision.

Debin Bruce noted that the plan for the barn will be for an event and program space that is open to the public.

Barbara Blumenthal stated that past CPA support has been critical to Historic Northampton, and that the staff is thorough in their research and works hard to find the best prices.

PV Habitat for Humanity, Broughton's Meadow Small Homes

Laura Baker, Valley CDC, encouraged support for the project.

Megan McDonough noted that Broughton's Meadow is a historic name for that section of Florence.

Lilly Library, Stair Repairs

No comments

Planning & Sustainability, Mill River Greenway Beach

Penny Geis, Leeds Civic Association President, stated that the acquisition will address equity and environmental issues and help to deal with overuse.

Karyn Nelson stated that the area abuts the Beaver Brook Greenway and the bike path, and acquisition will help with cleanup and promotion of appropriate use.

Heidi Stevens stated that the area has been abused as land without an owner or rule enforcement, and acquisition will be a positive step for river health and user experience.

Jason Johnson stated that the acquisition will not be possible without CPA funding.

Planning & Sustainability, Affordable Housing Fund

Laura Baker, Valley CDC, stated that the front-end investment that the fund allows goes a long way toward development of affordable housing.

Megan McDonough, Habitat for Humanity, stated that the fund allows small challenges to be addressed and creates viable land for affordable housing.

Planning & Sustainability, Historic Preservation Plan

Barbara Blumenthal stated that the last plan was completed 30 years ago, and a long-term plan like the City's Open Space Plan is needed to help guide decisionmaking and be proactive rather than reactive.

The Committee will discuss funding recommendations on April 7.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.