

**Northampton Community Preservation Committee Minutes
October 7, 2020**

Time: 7:00 pm
Place: Remote Online Meeting

Brian Adams	✓
Linda Morley	✓
Julia Chevan	✓
Chris Hellman	✓
Jeff Jones	✓
Martha Lyon	✓
Dan Krassner	✓
Jack Finn	✓
Alan Verson	✓
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 20, 2019 minutes. Seconded by Chris, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Chair's Report

Brian welcomed Dan Krassner to the Committee. Brian noted that two member terms have technically expired; Sarah will get in touch with the City Clerk to follow-up on Committee appointments. Brian noted that Covid has encouraged more people to get outside locally, including many parks and conservation areas that were funded in part through CPA.

Financial Overview

Sarah provided an overview of the annual financial transfer. After \$530,125 in debt service repayment, there will be approximately \$1,035,000 available for projects in FY21. This does not include any additional surplus state match distribution, which will not be known until the winter.

Discuss Small Grant Application and Make Funding Recommendation – Pine Grove Trails

Brian read the Small Grant section of the Community Preservation Plan. The Committee may recommend funding, not recommend, or move review to the full funding round.

Julia moved to recommend funding at the full \$3,000 requested. Seconded by Jack.

Chris stated that he supports the motion and the project proposed, and asked if there is a comprehensive plan for planned CPA requests at Pine Grove over the next few cycles. Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Sustainability, stated that projects and applications at Pine Grove will depend on other sources availability. Significant state grants will be sought in the future that will have required local match components. A master plan with all possible activities was developed. Not all of these are expected to be able to be completed, but it provides a menu of options.

Martha asked how the request was calculated. Wayne replied that gravel or elevated docks are the immediate needs; trails are a necessity now since the course is no longer being maintained and grass is much longer. Brian asked if parking will be provided. Wayne replied that dedicated parking is not planned.

The motion carried unanimously.

Determination of Expedited Review Status and Schedule – Water Based Recreation Assessment

Brian read the Community Preservation Plan section regarding expedited review. Wayne provided an overview of the project. Informal swimming areas on the Mill and Connecticut were overwhelmed during the summer, CPA funding is sought to study the areas and determine opportunities and next steps, with a goal of having enough due diligence complete to be able to apply for state and federal grant cycles in summer 2021. If CPA funding is provided, an RFP can be issued and work can begin immediately. If the project moves forward with the regular review timeline, a year of grant applications will likely be missed. Linda asked if the project will address contested issues in highly accessed neighborhoods near current areas. Wayne replied that a designated area could potentially siphon users from informal areas. The Committee discussed management challenges. Alan asked about the rationale for the City being involved. Wayne replied that there are several City properties involved, including some that are seeing heavy use now. Martha noted that a scope of work would be helpful. Wayne stated that stakeholder interviews will be conducted, including nontraditional population outreach as part of the project. Linda stated that the project is important, but asked about the unique need to fund now. Wayne noted that in addition to the grant timing, water recreation needs and challenges have been discussed by the Mayor and Councilors over the summer. Julia asked if followup from the initial community meeting could be discussed at the next CPC meeting. Wayne stated that he can provide a synopsis. The Committee agreed that the application should be discussed as an expedited review at the next meeting.

Site Visits

Julia suggested that video tours may be helpful instead of in-person visits. Sarah will request these from the Academy of Music and Smith Charities.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.