

1 *Brookline Preservation Commission*
2 **MINUTES OF THE January 3rd, 2023 Subcommittee meeting**
3 **Preservation Priorities for CPA**
4 **Held Virtually using Zoom Online Software**
5

6 **Commissioners Present:**

7
8 Dave Jack, Chair
9 John Spiers
10 Elton Elperin
11

12 **Members of the public:**

13
14 John Harris, Dennis Dewitt, Nancy Heller, Perry Grossman
15

16 **Staff:** Tina McCarthy, Jake Collins, Victoria Pardo
17

18
19 Mr. Jack called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM
20

21 Commissioners reviewed the minutes of 11/02/22 and 12/05/22. For the minutes of 12/05, Mr.
22 Elperin asked that the end of the first paragraph be elaborated to include staff's explanation of
23 allowable uses for CPA funds, specifically that they were not for planning.
24

25 Mr. Spiers moved to approve the minutes of 11/02/22 and 12/05/22 with the noted changes. Mr.
26 Elperin seconded the motion.
27

28 John Spiers- yes; Elton Elperin- yes; David Jack- yes
29

30 Ms. McCarthy shared an outline version of the Preservation Priorities list for discussion.

31 Mr. Jack asked Nancy Heller, Chair of the CPC, to offer comments on the list. Ms. Heller
32 strongly supported goal #1, to support the adaptive reuse of historic buildings for affordable
33 housing. She also encouraged the committee to consider short term priorities for funding in Fall
34 of '23. She suggested the Commissioners take a look at Restoreoregon.org, as the organization
35 had many projects and information around affordable housing and climate resiliency.
36

37 Ms. McCarthy asked the Commissioners to address the Open Space discussion, as it would be
38 helpful to identify areas of synergy between the two project categories. Mr. Elperin spoke about
39 the many stone bridges that needed work. He had served on the Muddy River Restoration project
40 (ongoing) and would check with this committee to see when the last survey of existing conditions
41 was completed. Dennis Dewitt added concerns about the bridge at the bottom of Leverett Pond,
42 and explained that this was not included in the restoration work that Judy Selwyn oversaw 20
43 years ago. Mr. Elperin stated that he had compiled an initial spreadsheet of observable conditions
44 at the bridges, but that a professional survey would be required.
45

46 Ms. McCarthy mentioned the historic foot paths in Brookline. Mr. Jack confirmed that some
47 needed work. Mr. Jack spoke about the trees on the Longwood Mall, and thought that the
48 Commission had an interest in protecting them from disease if at all possible.

49
50 Ms. McCarthy explained that there were staff meetings taking place to identify possible
51 archiving projects with the Library. All agreed that this work was high priority. Ms. McCarthy
52 noted the removal of the educational items from the list, as these expenses were not allowable
53 under the CPA program.

54
55 Discussion turned to items #2 & #3, grant programs to support projects in historic homes.
56 Commissioners discussed priorities to support goals of affordable housing, low- and moderate-
57 income neighborhoods, and sustainability. There was a consensus that the grant program should
58 be based on financial need, as defined for eligibility for CPA affordable housing programs.

59
60 Mr. Jack asked for public comments.

61
62 Mr. Dewitt mentioned that there were milestone markers throughout town in need of repair, as
63 well as historic street signs. He supported the proposed work on Town archives. He cautioned
64 that the bridge project may be difficult because many of these bridges are located ½ in Brookline,
65 ½ in Boston. The last time they were repaired it was through a state grant.

66
67 Nancy Heller thought that Town Buildings with historic windows needing restoration could be
68 a priority. She also spoke about the 1st generation copy of the Parthenon Friezes, originally
69 purchased from the British Museum for the Lincoln School, which were now located in the High
70 School atrium and at the Pierce School (old building). She mentioned their value and importance
71 to the town and thought they should be protected and restored if needed.

72
73 Commissioners discussed short-term priorities for projects that may be ready for funding in Fall
74 of 2023. Archival work and any needed restoration for Town buildings were the top priorities.
75 Ms. McCarthy explained that she would soon be meeting with the Public Buildings Department
76 to understand the needs of the Town owned historic buildings.

77
78 Next steps- Mr. Spiers agreed to revise his draft letter according to the discussion and notes taken
79 on staff's outline. Commissioners agreed to review this draft with the full Commission at the
80 hearing on January 19th. The letter was planned to be sent to the CPC for their meeting on
81 January 30.

82
83 Meeting adjourned at 4:13