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Community Preservation Committee
MINUTES OF THE September 12th, 2022 MEETING
Held Virtually using Zoom Online Software

5 **Members Present:**

6 Samuel Burrington
7 Joanne Sullivan
8 Clara Batchelor
9 John Spiers
10 David Lescohier
11 Nancy Heller
12 Mini Kolluri
13 Jenny Raitt

5 **Members Absent:**

6 Blair Hines

15 **Staff:** Tina McCarthy

17

Ms. Heller called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

19 **Approval of Minutes:**

21 Committee members discussed the minutes of the meeting on 8/3/22.

22 Ms. Batchelor moved to accept the edited minutes. Mr. Burrington seconded the motion.

24 John Spiers-yes; David Lescohier-yes; Clara Batchelor-yes; Jenny Raitt-yes; Samuel Burrington-
25 yes; Joanne Sullivan-abstained; Nancy Heller-yes; Mini Kolluri- yes

27 **Public Comment:**

28 None

30 **Report of the Chair:**

32 Ms. Heller asked if trash cans in parks would be fundable under CPA. Members thought that it
33 would because it is a renovation or improvement in the park.

35 **Review of existing planning context:**

37 Ms. Batchelor reviewed the Open Space & Athletic Field plan recommendations. She reported that
38 the Town needs to add 73-105 acres of land for recreation, including 4 new multipurpose synthetic
39 fields, 2 converted synthetic fields, 2 new natural turf baseball fields, 2 men's natural turf softball
40 fields & 4 Little League natural turf fields. She noted that synthetic turf fields cannot be funded
41 with CPA money. The Open Space Master Plan supported the findings of the Athletic Fields Study
42 and added: An outdoor aquatics facility, a dog park, a multi-generational indoor community
43 athletic/recreation facility, a skate park, an outdoor covered skating rink and an indoor skating rink.
44 She noted that the building and indoor recreational facilities cannot be funded with CPA money.

46 Ms. Raitt reviewed the Strategic Asset Plan and noted that the Housing Production Plan was not
47 available, though it might be ready to go in October, in draft form. From the Strategic Asset Plan

49 she thought that organizational issues around digitization of Town documents was possibly
50 fundable through CPA.

51
52 Ms. Heller reviewed the draft Zero waste plan, and suggested that CPA might fund trash cans for
53 parks.

54
55 Mr. Spiers explained that he spoke with the Preservation Commission, and confirmed that there
56 was no Preservation Plan in place, as the last planning process was completed in 1983. The
57 Preservation Commission was interested in creating a Preservation Plan but needed to finish the
58 Local Historic District Design Guidelines first. He explained themes of intersection between
59 Preservation and other issues, such as sustainability. The Preservation Commission had many
60 questions and ideas about community-based preservation and a historic homes restoration program.
61 He emphasized the interest in understanding equity in Preservation- who has access to housing,
62 where is it located, what condition is it in. Preservationists need to articulate these ideas better.
63 Finally, he shared the Commission's thinking about density. In principal there was support for
64 increased housing density but it needs to be appropriate; good opportunities should be identified.
65 He hoped to discuss the timing of a possible Preservation Plan with the Commission at the next
66 meeting, taking into consideration the LHD Design Guidelines process.

67
68 Mr. Burrington had not spoken with the Conservation Commission due to a cancelled meeting. He
69 emphasized the need to acquire a lot of land to realize the goals of the Open Space plan. He hoped
70 to learn more about what could be done through CPA to acquire land, and better understand the
71 opportunities to do so. He added that protecting land adjacent to wetland areas was important, as
72 well as the urban forest and climate resiliency- tree health and soil quality. Tree coverage had
73 declined by 71 acres and the was as much as a 4-degree temp difference documented between north
74 and south Brookline. He raised the environmental justice issues with this trend. He hoped that
75 CPA's projects to add new housing and recreation would include tree plantings with substantial
76 green spaces in developments.

77
78 Mr. Lescohier agreed that category overlaps such as green space in housing or rec developments
79 are possible in CPA and should be encouraged through the application process. Ms. Batchelor
80 asked about the intersection at Clear Flour Bakery, she thought there was an opportunity to develop
81 green space there through narrowed roadways. Others agreed it was worth investigating.

82
83 Mini Kolluri reviewed the Economic Development Plan for Commercial Areas. She explained the
84 themes were density, historic preservation; expansion should be done with consideration for these.
85 She could see CPA funding getting involved in the future, but plans were not very developed at
86 present/

87
88 Ms. Heller discussed Open Meeting Law requirements for subcommittees.

89
90 **Report from RFP Subcommittee**

91
92 Ms. Raitt outlined the discussion at the subcommittee meeting: community engagement,
93 Watertown's RFP process, scope of work. She raised questions for the group- Should the
94 consultant have Community Engagement Expertise or just organize the process? The
95 subcommittee thought the plan should be written by the consultant and the engagement process
96 should be directed by them.

97 Ms. Heller mentioned the existing community engagement specialist in Town and asked what role
98 they would play. Mr. Raitt explained that in past the Town's Community Engagement employee
99 served an advisory role on projects.

100
101 Ms. Batchelor supported the subcommittee's findings and agreed that a consultant should be hired
102 for the work. Ms. Heller & Ms. Kolluri agreed that the consultant was necessary for both the report
103 and the engagement.

104
105 Ms. Raitt announced that the next subcommittee meeting would be on 9/30 and hopefully they
106 would put together the draft RFP for review in October.

107

108 **Other Business-**

109

110 Mr. Lescohier & Ms. Heller reviewed the Town meeting process regarding the budget. For this fall
111 there would not be a separate warrant article, as one was filed in the spring. Melissa will
112 incorporate the numbers approved by the Committee into the budget as an amendment.

113

114 Ms. Sullivan asked Ms. McCarthy to send the draft timeline to full committee for review.

115

116 Mr. Lescohier mentioned that the ARPA committee was beginning its second round. There may be
117 integrations with the CPA program, and Ms. Raitt is on that committee. Ms. Raitt offered to report
118 back anything relevant to the group.

119

120 Ms. Raitt asked Ms. McCarthy to send the Housing Production Plan draft to the entire CPC once it
121 was released.

122

123 Ms. Sullivan moved to adjourn. Ms. Raitt seconded the motion.

124

125 John Spiers-yes; David Lescohier-yes; Clara Batchelor-yes; Jenny Raitt-yes; Samuel Burrington-
126 yes; Joanne Sullivan-yes; Nancy Heller-yes; Mini Kolluri- yes

127

128 The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.