

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Public Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Virtual Public Hearing and Public Meeting

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk's Office, Concord's Community Preservation Committee held a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. using the Zoom meeting platform. Meeting ID: 89213275628 Password: 266337

Committee members Diane Proctor, Tom Kearns, John Cratsley, Paul Boehm, Peter Ward, and Charles Phillips were present.

Others Present: Linda Escobedo, Marcia Rasmussen, Karlen Reed, Anke Voss, Anna Mckeown, Helen Bowdoin, Court Booth, and Bill Herring.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. by a roll call vote.

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves and stated which board or committee they were the designee.

Introduction to the CPC and Overview of Application Process

Senior Planner, Heather Gill gave a brief presentation summarizing the Community Preservation Act in Concord. Mr. Kearns explained that there is a 1.5% out of a possible 3% surcharge on real estate property tax bills for CPA and that the first \$100,000 of taxable value is exempt. She explained that persons with income less than 80% of area median income are exempt, as well as seniors with income less than 100% of area median income. Ms. Gill stated that the locally raised funds are matched on a percentage basis by funds in the State Community Preservation Fund. Ms. Gill then reviewed the four project categories: Community Housing, Historic Preservation, Open Space and Recreation. She then reviewed the application process and important dates and deadlines.

Questions from Prospective Applicants

Court Booth, from the Thoreau Farm Trust explained that they are looking to build a trail to connect the Battle Road trail to the Thoreau Birth Place. He explained that they are working with the Nation Park on the project. He asked about projects that fit into multiple categories. Ms. Proctor stated that happens often. Mr. Kearns explained that they will often split the funding into the two categories.

Bill Herring explained that he would like to update the Reformatory trail. Mr. Herring explained that there are maintenance and safety issues along the trail. Marcia Rasmussen explained that the Reformatory trail is owned by the Town, so the Town Manager would need to sign off on the application. Mr. Kearns indicated the routine maintenance is not generally funded by the CPA.

Anke Voss, Curator of Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library explained that she is looking to digitize and transcribe over 400 oral histories in their collection. Ms. Voss explained that they are only available on cassette tape right now, and she would like to make them available online.

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Ms. Rasmussen, Director of Planning and Land Management, presented a list of town projects and briefly summarized each of them.

- Land acquisition for open space and housing purposes (5+ acres near the BFRT and Assabet River) – \$1,000,000
- Additional design and construction funds for the Assabet River pedestrian bridge - \$250,000
- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail amenities (trail counters, benches, landscaping, signage) - \$50,000
- Junction Village Open Space – unknown amount at this time
- RHSO funds to support housing initiatives - \$25,000
- CPC Administrative funds - \$40,000

Anna Mckeown, from the Recreation Department explained that they are looking into updating the Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan, as well as looking into updates to Emerson Pool, and court resurfacing.

Other Business and Minutes

Mr. Kearns moved to approve the minutes of June 29, 2021 as drafted. Mr. Boehm seconded the motion and all others voted in favor.

With no further discussion, Mr. Cratsley moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Mr. Kearns seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Gill
Senior Planner

Minutes Approved on: 10-05-2021

Secretary