

**Community Preservation Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2022, 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk's Office, Concord's Community Preservation Committee held a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. using the Zoom meeting platform. Webinar ID: 849 4959 1705 Password: 766172

Committee members present: Diane Proctor, Chair, Select Board appointee; Paul Boehm, Recreation Commission; Andrew Boardman, Planning Board; John Cratsley, Select Board; Burton Flint, Select Board; Sarah Grimwood, Natural Resources Comm.; Eve Isenberg Select Board; Nancy Nelson, Historical Commission; Charles Phillips, Housing Authority

Others Present: Nathaniel Smith, Town Archivist; Melissa Saalfield, Chair, Concord Historical Commission; Rod Riedel, Concord Cemetery Committee; Patricia Hopkins, Cemetery Supervisor, Town of Concord; Beth Van Duzer, Concord Civil War Task Force; Ann Clifford, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. by a roll call vote (9-0), mentioning the site visits that took place earlier in the afternoon and on the prior Saturday. A review of existing projects and any surplus funding will be reserved for a future meeting in October. This meeting provides an opportunity for each applicant for CPC funding to present their project in a 30-minute timeframe.

2. Meetings with Individual CPC Applicants

Nathaniel Smith, Town of Concord Archivist began by describing the Preservation of Town Plans project that would preserve and digitize two sets of plans: Town Plans of Concord (1907-1910) copied by Frank Stickney and two oversized plans of Concord Waterworks by William Wheeler (1874, 1875). The former includes lot lines which are not found on any previous map. The latter documents an influential system of waterworks but the plans are inaccessible to the public due to their large size and fragility. Mr. Smith provided an overview of the storage conditions of Town drawings, noting that some like the Wheeler drawings are still being discovered in various departments, while others are stored in vaults in the main library and its Fowler branch. He received assessments for these important documents from the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

Melissa Saalfield, Chair of the Concord Historical Commission, presented the application for funding a Historic Preservation Plan for the Town of Concord. The Town and the CPC are currently guided by an outdated document, over twenty years old, that does not address current cross-disciplinary issues that are high priorities for the Town of Concord and national preservation organizations. The proposed plan, prepared by an outside consultant would follow Massachusetts Historical Commission guidelines, customized to the unique opportunities and challenges of Concord. She has been wanting to update the plan for four years and would like to follow this first phase of work with a second one that would improve access to Concord's historic resources on line. Ms. Isenberg asked whether the plan would address mid-century modern resources not currently surveyed and also whether it would affect the design guidelines of the HDC. Mr. Flint noted how important it would be to include the public and many stakeholders throughout the planning process, and especially in the decision making regarding priorities. Ms. Nelson noted that the definition of historic sites includes historic landscapes as well as structures. Ms. Proctor stated that she recently became aware that there are forty different languages spoken in Concord, reflecting the diverse nature of the community which will be served by the plan.

Rod Riedel of the Cemetery Committee presented the Town of Concord application for the preservation of 35 stone walls and structures in three cemeteries: the Old Hill Burying Ground, South Burying Ground and Sleepy

Hollow Cemetery. When asked by Dr. Grimwood about the durability of the repairs, Mr. Riedel responded that he would expect a diligent program of preventative maintenance each year once the structures have been restored to good condition. Ms. Hopkins described a previous CPC-funded preservation effort that focused on roadway maintenance and drainage. A future project would look at metal structures, trees and landscapes and the CPC grant would be used to leverage additional funding. Ms. Nelson drew attention to the National Register status of these important resources and urged the team to include a historic preservationist to ensure the project's success. Similarly, Ms. Proctor encouraged the applicant to secure the services of a firm that would be sensitive to important aesthetic considerations (such as mosses) that convey the antiquity of the walls.

Mr. Cratsley asked about other sources of funding such as the Cemetery Fund and the Friends of Sleepy Hollow. Ms. Hopkins said that she did not believe that they would be requesting additional funding at Town Meeting. Mr. Riedel acknowledged that the Friends had already been quite generous this year and typically donate in the tens of thousands rather than the hundreds of thousands.

Mr. Riedel relayed that an engineering firm, not a historic preservation firm, had assessed the walls and structures. He thanked the CPC for recommending this higher level of care, agreed that the inclusion of a historic preservation firm would be important, and offered to explore this avenue and provide an update.

Beth Van Duzer, a representative of the Civil War Task Force Committee, presented the Town of Concord application for the preservation and conservation of the Civil War Monument on Monument Square. This project also includes the replacement of the current plaque commemorating fallen Civil War soldiers with a new one that includes the name George Washington Dugan. Because Dugan was marked as missing until 1932, he was ineligible for listing on this plaque and those that preceded it. Adding his name to a new plaque would right a historical wrong. When Mr. Cratsley asked about the firm that would perform the repairs, Ms. Van Duzer responded that it would need to be put out to bid since it is a Town project. When Ms. Nelson asked about the firms that Ms. Van Duzer had contacted, she named Buccacio (that worked on the Shaw Memorial in Boston) and Daedalus (that cares for the Melvin Memorial in Concord).

3. Other Business: Minutes 8/23

Dr. Grimwood noted how she had sent a comment to include in the minutes. In regard to the introductory paragraph, there was some discussion regarding the eligibility of private individuals as applicants for CPC funding. Ms. Nelson asked that the phrase be removed from the minutes. She moved that the minutes be accepted as slightly amended. Mr. Flint seconded the motion. The motion passed (7-0) by all present and eligible to vote: Ms. Proctor, Mr. Boehm, Mr. Cratsley, Mr. Fling, Dr. Grimwood, Ms. Nelson, and Mr. Phillips.

4. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Clifford, Senior Planner

Minutes Approved on: November 15, 2022