

Town of Great Barrington
Community Preservation Committee (CPC)
Minutes of October 20, 2020 special meeting

This meeting was held via audio/video teleconference as noted on the agenda for this meeting.

Call to Order 5:00 PM by Chair Blauvelt.

Chair Blauvelt called the roll. All members were present: Thomas Blauvelt, Leigh Davis, Martha Fick, Jeremy Higa, Don Howe, Jim Mercer, Patricia Sharpe, Kate Van Olst, and Karen W. Smith

Also present: Christopher Rembold.

Review FY22 Step 1 Applications from Construct, Inc.

Davis recused herself from the discussion.

This is a late application from Construct.

Fick moved that Construct apply to the Housing Trust for this funding, rather than the CPA. There was no second.

June Wolfe, Housing Director of Construct, submitted an application for CPA funding and asked the Committee to entertain it for this FY22 round. In the current rental assistance program, state funds have been exhausted and Construct is tapping the funds from the Housing Trust Fund. Construct is anticipating the need for funding come July 1.

This application is also for the microloan program, which has been enormously successful. It is most often used for security deposit for new renters. Many of these folks are new renters, needing to rent suddenly because of domestic violence or divorce, and they haven't been able to save for a deposit or build credit. The repayment has been excellent and it's been underwritten by banks and generous donors. It is a successful program.

There was some discussion amongst the Committee about whether or not to move this forward, or to revisit it after other applications are discussed. Smith said since the CPA requires 10% of the annual revenue must be spent or reserved on Housing purposes anyway, we should take this up. It fills a real need.

Smith moved that this was eligible and can proceed to Step 2. Higa seconded.

On a roll call vote, all participating members voted in favor (8-0) (Davis was recused).

Citizen's Speak: None

Next Meetings: November 10, and November 17

Blauvelt adjourned the meeting at 5:35 PM.

Minutes prepared by Christopher Rembold

