

**Town of Great Barrington**  
**Community Preservation Committee (CPC)**  
Minutes of January 19, 2021

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. He asked Vice Chair Smith to run the meeting.

Vice Chair Smith called the roll.

Eight of nine members were present: Thomas Blauvelt, Leigh Davis, Martha Fick, Jeremy Higa, Don Howe, Jim Mercer, Karen W. Smith, and Kate Van Olst.

Patricia Sharpe was absent.

Also present: Christopher Rembold

**FY22 Applications – Final Review / Question and Answer**

Smith ask the group to ask any remaining questions and/or discuss the merits or issues with each project.

*Town, for Housatonic Rail Trail improvements*

Fick and Blauvelt spoke in support of the project noting it is a good project and continues the CPA investments in Housatonic. Fick reminded the group that we are prioritizing town projects.

*Town, for Lake Mansfield water quality studies*

Davis commented in support.

*Town, Conservation Commission, McAllister Wildlife Refuge*

Smith and Higa commented in support.

*Town, Historical Commission, inventory of landscape and open space items*

Blauvelt and Davis commented in support.

*Town, Ramsdell Library archeological study*

Higa commented in support. Smith said this is an important study and first step, but wanted to be clear that this is not an endorsement yet for a full renovation.

*First Congregational Church restoration of masonry at the Manse*

Howe said this an important project for the Historical Commission and the Historic District Commission. He said it's also important to note that the Massachusetts Historical Commission holds a permanent preservation restriction on the property. The buildings are very significant historic buildings.

Smith reminded the committee that Town Counsel has opined that it is permissible to fund this proposal with CPA funds; that the components of the project to be funded do not relate to the religious practice but rather to the physical building.

Blauvelt said with this legal opinion he will support the project. Fick commented in support.

Ray Murray and Chuck Hamilton spoke about the Church's capital fundraising campaign for the project and the other potential sources of funding.

*Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center emergency doors*

There were no questions.

Clinton Church Restoration second phase

Higa and Smith commented in support.

**Recommendations to Town Meeting:**

Rembold said that while budget estimates are difficult to predict, given the funds in the CPA reserves and a conservative estimate of FY22 receipts, there is enough to cover this slate of applications.

**Open Space**

Town for Housatonic Rail Trail improvements

Blauvelt moved to recommend this project to Town Meeting for funding in the amount requested; Higa seconded.

Howe – aye; Fick – aye; Mercer – aye; Van Olst – aye; Higa – aye; Davis – aye; Blauvelt – aye; Smith – aye. The motion passed 8 to 0.

Town for Lake Mansfield water quality studies

Blauvelt moved to recommend this project to Town Meeting for funding in the amount requested; Fick seconded.

Howe – aye; Fick – aye; Mercer – aye; Van Olst – aye; Higa – aye; Davis – aye; Blauvelt – aye; Smith – aye. The motion passed 8 to 0.

Town Conservation Commission, McAllister Wildlife Refuge

Howe moved to recommend this project to Town Meeting for funding in the amount requested; Blauvelt seconded.

Howe – aye; Fick – aye; Mercer – aye; Van Olst – aye; Higa – aye; Davis – aye; Blauvelt – aye; Smith – aye. The motion passed 8 to 0.

**Historic**

Town Historical Commission, inventory of landscape and open space items

Blauvelt moved to recommend this project to Town Meeting for funding in the amount requested; Higa seconded.

Howe – aye; Fick – aye; Mercer – aye; Van Olst – aye; Higa – aye; Davis – aye; Blauvelt – aye; Smith – aye. The motion passed 8 to 0.

Ramsdell Library archeological study

Van Olst moved to recommend this project to Town Meeting for funding in the amount requested; Higa seconded.

Howe – aye; Fick – aye; Mercer – aye; Van Olst – aye; Higa – aye; Davis – aye; Smith – aye. The motion passed 7 to 0. (Blauvelt recused)

First Congregational Church restoration of masonry at the Manse

Fick moved to recommend this project to Town Meeting for funding in the amount requested; Howe seconded.

Howe – aye; Fick – aye; Mercer – aye; Van Olst – aye; Higa – aye; Davis – aye; Blauvelt – aye; Smith – aye. The motion passed 8 to 0.

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center emergency doors

Fick moved to recommend this project to Town Meeting for funding in the amount requested; Higa seconded. Howe –aye; Fick – aye; Mercer – aye; Van Olst – aye; Higa – aye; Smith – aye. The motion passed 6 to 0. (Blauvelt and Davis recused)

Clinton Church Restoration second phase

Van Olst moved to recommend this project to Town Meeting for funding in the amount requested; Mercer seconded.  
Howe – aye; Fick – aye; Mercer – aye; Van Olst – aye; Higa – aye; Davis – aye; Blauvelt – aye; Smith – aye. The motion passed 8 to 0.

**Housing**

Construct, for rental assistance and microloan program

Higa moved to recommend this project to Town Meeting for funding in the amount requested; Howe seconded.  
Howe –aye; Fick – aye; Mercer – aye; Van Olst – aye; Higa – aye; Blauvelt – aye; Smith – aye. The motion passed 7 to 0. (Davis recused)

**Minutes:**

Corrections were offered to the draft December 1, 2020 meeting minutes.

Blauvelt moved to approve as amended; Howe seconded. Roll call vote: Fick-aye, Davis-aye, Higa-aye, Howe-aye, Mercer-aye, Smith-aye, Van Olst-aye, and Blauvelt-aye. Passed 8-0.

**Citizen's Speak:** None

**Next Meeting:** March 16, 2021

Howe moved to adjourn, Higa seconded. Without objection Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Minutes prepared by Christopher Rembold

