

Town of Great Barrington
Community Preservation Committee (CPC)
Minutes of September 8, 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.

Eight of the nine members were present: Tom Blauvelt, Leigh Davis, Martha Fick, Jeremy Higa, Don Howe, Jim Mercer, Patricia Sharpe, Karen W. Smith. Absent: Kate Van Olst.

Also present: Christopher Rembold

Minutes: Smith moved to approve the August 3, 2021 minutes as written; Sharpe seconded. Blauvelt noted a typo in the date. Roll call vote: Blauvelt-aye; Davis-abstain; Fick-aye, Higa-aye, Howe-aye, Mercer-aye, Sharpe-aye; Smith-aye. Passed 8-0.

CPA Plan public hearing:

The CPC received a comment letter from the Planning Board, dated September 5. Planning Board vice-chair Malcolm Fick spoke to the Committee and reiterated the Planning Board's comments and suggestions.

There followed a discussion amongst the members about the Planning Board's comments. The Committee decided the statements about housing for 80% and 100% of area median income should be amended to be clear that all projects up to 100% of area median income would be welcomed and considered. Sharpe suggested rewording the fifth paragraph under Affordable Housing in order to accomplish this goal. It will read as follows: "Given the deep cost burdens in Great Barrington, the greatest housing needs are for those households earning 80 percent or less of the area median income, and new subsidized housing units for this level of income or less are eligible to be counted on the state's Subsidized Housing Inventory. However, CPA housing funds may be used to serve the needs of households earning up to and including 100 percent of the area median income, as determined by the US Dept. of HUD, and the Committee will consider proposals that do so."

Vivian Orlowski spoke and commended the committee for including agriculture, farmland, gardens, and climate change considerations in the Plan.

There were no other public comments.

Smith moved to adopt the CPA Plan as amended; Higa seconded. Roll call vote: Blauvelt-aye; Davis-abstain; Fick-aye, Higa-aye, Howe-aye, Mercer-aye, Sharpe-aye; Smith-aye. Passed 8-0.

Application deadlines: Members decided that Step 1 will be due on November 5 and Step 2 will be due on December 17.

Reports from Committee Members: Smith said the Town will likely apply for funds for Memorial Field improvements. Howe mentioned that he thought the Town does not fund parks at the amount it deserves to be funded. In terms of applications for historic funds, he said there would likely be an application for masonry repairs to Town Hall in a future year. Davis said she is on the Planning Board / Selectboard subcommittee for affordable housing and their next meeting is September 20.

Citizen's Speak: None

Next Meeting: November 9 at 5:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Minutes prepared by Christopher Rembold

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Rembold", written in a cursive style.