Town of Great Barrington Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Minutes of March 29, 2022

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

Call to Order 5:00 PM by Vice Chair Smith.

Eight of the nine members were present: Leigh Davis, Martha Fick, Jeremy Higa, Don Howe, Jim Mercer, Patricia Sharpe, Karen W. Smith, and Kate Van Olst. Tom Blauvelt was not present. Also present: Christopher Rembold

Minutes: There was one typo in the draft minutes of the January 25 meeting. Higa moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Davis seconded. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor, 8-0.

Status Report and Update on FY20 North Plain Farm CPA Grant: The 2019 Town Meeting approved a CPA grant towards the purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) at 180-190 North Plain Road. The committee received a letter dated March 16, 2022 from North Plain Farm owner Sean Stanton that described a change in the project APR acreage. When survey was completed it was discovered a portion of the eastern end of the property, near the old oxbow of the river, was not part of the property. It is owned by an abutter. So instead of 74 acres being in the APR, only 66.5 will be in APR. Committee members voiced support but it was decided a formal vote was not needed. Members thanked Stanton for the update.

Town Meeting Preparation: Rembold said he will draft a Committee report to Town Meeting as usual. He is not sure whether the meeting will be inside or outside, if a slide presentation will be possible or not.

Sharpe suggested the Committee hold a public meeting prior to Town Meeting to give the community an opportunity to learn about the CPA and about the recommended projects. All were in agreement. Rembold will work with Sharpe and Fick to prepare slides for the meeting. Committee members representing other boards on the CPC could describe projects in their area of interest. For example, van Olst could discuss the McAllister open space project, and Howe could discuss the 343 Main Street historic project.

The public meeting will be held Tuesday, May 24 at 6:30 PM. It will be via zoom.

Reports from Committee Members: None

Citizen's Speak: None

Next Meeting: May 24, 6:30 public information session

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Muhaphy Souls

Christopher Rembold