

**Town of Great Barrington
Community Preservation Committee (CPC)**

Minutes of July 11, 2023

This meeting was held in-person and via Zoom as noted on the meeting agenda.

Call to Order: Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Seven members were present: Leigh Davis (Selectboard), Martha Fick (Citizen rep.), Richard Geiler (Finance Committee), Jeremy Higa (Planning Board), Jim Mercer (Historical Comm), Patricia Sharpe (Citizen rep.), Karen W. Smith (Parks Comm).

Not Present: Kate Van Olst (Conservation)

John Grogan was present to represent the Housing Authority but he is not yet sworn in.

Smith said we will reorganize when we next have a full committee present.

Also present: CPA Administrator / Assistant Town Manager Christopher Rembold.

Minutes: Mercer moved to approve the minutes April 4, 2023, Fick seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Community Preservation Coalition Dues: Rembold said this is the statewide advocacy and training group for the CPA. Their database has a list of all CPA projects as well as technical assistance for municipalities. Higa moved to pay the FY24 dues. Geiler seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

CPA Project Updates: Smith said the list is very useful. She asked that the list be updated to reflect a \$0 remainder where unused funds were transferred back into the fund. There were a number of these. She also asked that the percent expended and percent remaining also be updated.

Smith asked about the three Historic Inventory projects, one each in FY20, FY21, and FY22. Rembold said the bid documents for project consultants is being developed now.

Geiler asked about the Construct project, #50-22. Rembold said he received an update that they will not undertake the microloan program. Therefore \$25,000 will be unallocated and go back into the CPA fund. He said the Eagleton project also will not go forward, so those funds will also be unobligated. Jane Ralph, the Director of Construct confirmed the project updates. She said she hopes the CPC will use those funds for housing projects.

Community Preservation Plan: Rembold said this is the time of year to solicit input about the town's community preservation needs. Rembold said he will update the data in the plan and a public hearing will be scheduled. He asked members to consult with their boards and bring updates to the Committee.

Rembold said the Town will likely have a special town meeting in October. He said it is possible to include CPA applications on that agenda, if the Committee accepts special applications this fall. He said he is not yet sure how much of the CPA funds will be available for a special town meeting. There could be up to \$600,000 available to spend in October, but that will not be known until the town's accounts are certified.

Geiler asked about a possible timeline. Rembold thought if a special town meeting was in mid or late October applications could be due in late September. He thought applications would have to be due by late August, application review in September, and funding recommendations made by late September.

There was discussion about whether to open applications for just one type of project, such as housing. Davis thought the project should demonstrate why the project is an urgent need. Smith said that could be the step 1. The Committee agreed to discuss this again at the next meeting.

The Committee agreed to meet again on July 31.

Reports from Committee Members:

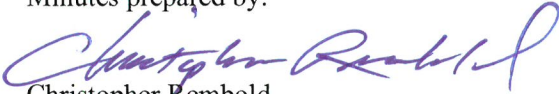
Smith said the Parks and Recreation Committee has a survey underway, and has some input on next steps to improve Grove Street Park and Dewey Park.

Davis said the Housing Subcommittee is discussing how a fee on expensive home sales could be used to fund housing initiatives or replenish the Housing Trust fund.

Citizens' Speak: Jane Ralph encouraged the committee to have a special funding round. She thinks Construct will have a project ready to create new housing units.

Adjourn: Mercer moved to adjourn, Higa seconded. The meeting adjourned meeting at 5:55 PM.

Minutes prepared by:


Christopher Rembold