

Town of Great Barrington Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

Minutes of August 14, 2018

Town Hall

Members present: Dan Bailly, Thomas Blauvelt, Lisa Bozzuto, Martha Fick, Jeremy Higa, Don Howe, Jim Mercer, and Patricia Sharpe.

Also present: Town Planner/CPA Administrator Chris Rembold

Absent: Karen W. Smith

Call to Order 5:30 PM by Chair Blauvelt

Administrative Items

Bozzuto moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 2018; Fick seconded. All were in favor.

Rembold gave a brief review of the state's CPA Trust Fund budget.

Rembold said the Committee is in receipt of a CPA grant extension request from the CDC for the open space at 100 Bridge. This should be addressed at a meeting in September.

CPA Plan Public Hearing

Chair Blauvelt opened the public hearing and invited public comment. There was none.

Rembold had distributed a draft with possible changes for the Committee's review and comment. Blauvelt asked for comments from Committee members.

Discussion ensued about the Plan and the potential changes outlined by Rembold.

There was a discussion about prioritizing housing projects that target households of 80% or less of area median income (AMI). Several members had received input from the town Housing Trust Fund suggesting that it is difficult to serve those lower income levels since there is limited housing stock affordable at that lower level. Higa moved to delete the priority to fund households of 80% or less of AMI. Bailly seconded. Six voted in favor and two (Sharpe, Howe) against. Motion carried.

There was a discussion about including in the Plan some language recommending that 50% of the total annual CPA revenues be dedicated (spent on projects or reserved for future projects) to housing purposes, rather than the minimum of 10% per the CPA state law. Fick said she would rather not restrict the Committee's ability to fund other projects. Sharpe agreed saying all CPA areas are important for the Town. Howe said it might be ok if the Committee funded projects at this level or considered a 50% funding goal, but he was not sure about making a firm commitment. Blauvelt said he was concerned having a firm commitment of this level towards housing would discourage open space and historic applications. Higa moved to change the Plan to include the language re: 50% to housing, Howe seconded. Two were in favor (Higa, Howe), and six against. The motion failed.

There being no other discussion, Blauvelt called for a vote on the Plan. Higa moved to adopt the Plan as amended tonight, Bailly seconded. All were in favor.

Rembold will post the adopted Plan and the FY 20 application forms.

Reports of Committee members

Howe said the Library Trustees are considering how to improve Ramsdell Library. It is unclear if they will apply for CPA funds.

Higa said the CDC has acquired property at 910 Main Street and is seeking to build affordable housing there. It is likely that they will apply for CPA funds this year.

Citizen Speak

None

Next Meeting

9/11

10/9

11/13

Adjourned at 6:40 PM

Minutes prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie T. Rumbold", written over a horizontal line.