

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

Minutes of October 11, 2017

Fire Station, 37 State Road

---

Members present: Ed Abrahams, Thomas Blauvelt, Martha Fick, Jeremy Higa, Bill Nappo, Patricia Sharpe, and Karen W. Smith. Absent: Jessica Dezieck

Also present: Town Planner/CPA Administrator Chris Rembold

**Call to Order** 5:35 PM by Blauvelt

### **Administrative Items**

Smith moved to approve the minutes of August 7. Abrahams seconded. All were in favor

### **Review Step 1 applications**

1. Housing Trust fund, for rehabilitation and downpayment assistance funds: Bill Cooke, Chair of the Trust and Selectboard member, described the proposal as for downpayment, closing cost, and rehabilitation assistance for income eligible homeowners. Smith moved to accept the Step 1 application from the Great Barrington Municipal Housing Trust for downpayment, closing cost, and rehabilitation assistance as eligible for CPA funding and to invite a Step 2 application. Higa seconded. All were in favor.
2. Housing Trust fund, for property acquisition funds. Bill Cooke explained that this proposal seeks to establish a fund so that the Trust can buy property on which it or a nonprofit could build affordable housing. Smith moved to accept the Step 1 application from the Great Barrington Municipal Housing Trust for land acquisition funds as eligible for CPA funding and to invite a Step 2 application. Nappo seconded. All were in favor.
3. Housatonic Valley Association, Housatonic River Access: Chair Blauvelt read the project description. Smith moved to accept the application from HVA to create a new river access as eligible for CPA funding and to invite a Step 2 application. Higa seconded. All were in favor.
4. Clinton Church Restoration: Wray Gunn and Diego Gutierrez described the project for the old church on Elm Court in downtown. The first phase will involve urgent repairs and stabilization including fixing drainage issue. That is estimated to be \$100,000. The total phase 1 work is about \$400,000. Phase 2 is still to be defined, and they are working to identify the uses and future of the building and its management. Smith moved to accept the application from Clinton Church Restoration to preserve the Clinton Church as eligible for CPA funding and to invite a Step 2 application. Higa seconded. All were in favor.
5. Guthrie Center accessibility improvements: Rembold noted that the structure is not on the State Register of Historic Places and the Historical Commission has not reviewed it. Smith moved to judge the application from The Guthrie Center as not eligible for CPA funding because it is not on the State Register nor has the Historical Commission formally designated it as a significant structure. Higa seconded. All were in favor.
6. Great Barrington Land Conservancy Riverfront Trail construction: Janice Kabel and Dale Abrams said this proposal builds on the design and wetland work already completed, and asks for funds to build the northern segment and the southern segment of the trail. The route and design of the middle segment through the Fairgrounds is more complex and not ready. Smith moved to

accept the application of the GBLC to create a new river riverfront trail as eligible for CPA funds and invite a Step 2 application. Higa seconded. All were in favor.

7. Town Historical Commission: Paul Ivory, Chair of the Commission, said they are seeking to do the next round of historic resources inventory and hope to match the CPA grant with Mass. Historical Commission funds, as they did for the first round. Smith moved to accept the Step 1 application from the Historical Commission for an historic resources survey as eligible for CPA funding and to invite a Step 2 application. Nappo seconded. All were in favor.
8. Town Hall – restoration of the steps: DPW Superintendent Sean Van Deusen said last year the Town funded the engineering and that is almost completed. They have a cost estimate now and it is almost a quarter of a million dollars. He said this application will ask the CPA for half of that amount. Smith moved to accept the Step 1 application from the Town to rehabilitate the Town Hall steps as eligible for CPA funding and to invite a Step 2 application. Nappo seconded. All were in favor.
9. Old Route 7 trail: Rembold gave a brief overview of the trail proposal, and that this request will fund the engineering and permitting required. Smith moved to accept the Step 1 application from the Town to create a new trail on the Old Route 7 corridor as eligible for CPA funding and to invite a Step 2 application. Higa seconded. All were in favor.
10. Lake Mansfield Forest Accessible Loop trail: Rembold said these funds would be used to complete the accessible trail system in the Lake Mansfield Forest. The route is roughed in and previous sections were completed with private and other grant funding. Smith moved to accept the Step 1 application from the Town to create an accessible trail at Lake Mansfield as eligible for CPA funding and to invite a Step 2 application. Higa seconded. All were in favor.
11. Conservation Commission for McAllister Wildlife Refuge: Gaetan Lachance, Chair of the Cons Comm., said this 94 acre property was gifted to the Commission 40 years ago but the Commission does not have any budget to do work there. Currently invasive species are taking over and this proposal will manage those and create new bird habitat. They also have a Forest stewardship program application pending for \$2000. Smith moved to accept the Step 1 application from the Town to preserve open space at McAllister Wildlife Refuge as eligible for CPA funding and to invite a Step 2 application. Higa seconded. All were in favor.

**Citizen Speak Time:** None

**Next Meeting:** November 14.

**Adjourn** 6:50 PM

Materials Presented/Distributed for this Meeting:

- Step 1 applications
- Draft minutes from 8/7/17

Minutes prepared by

