

## **Town of Lenox**

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### **Community Preservation Committee**

**November 7, 2016**

**CPC Members:** Chair Tony Patella (TP); Vice Chair Tom Delasco (TD); BoS Liaison Channing Gibson (CG); Historical Commission Olga Weiss (OW); Housing Authority Cathie May (CM); Conservation Commission Joseph Strauch (JS); At Large Gene Chague (GC); At Large Al Harper (AH)

**Staff:** Gwen Miller, Land Use Director

#### **Documents Provided at Meeting:**

- Application addendums from SBA
- CPA Account Balance
- Minutes of 9/12/16

The meeting began at 7:06. All members were in attendance. Kate McNulty-Vaughan was the only member of the public present.

#### **Approval of September 12 Minutes**

FK moved to approve the minutes of September 12. CG seconded. All voted to approve the minutes of September 12, 2016.

#### **Budget Update**

GM provided the most recent account balance for the CPC. She noted the state match were likely to be received on November 17th or 18<sup>th</sup>.

GM noted the Town had completed paying off the Sawmill Brook purchase this fall. FK asked for a brief update on the Sawmill site and housing work going on. GM said that the Sawmill Designated Developer Agreement had expired in September, and that the state is no longer financing affordable ownership projects. A working group is obtaining free technical assistance from the Mass Housing Partnership to identify workable scenario for the site. FK suggested perhaps an ownership project could take place elsewhere in the community. GM also described the grant-funded Housing Production Plan update being conducted by the Lenox Housing Trust.

TP noted that it would be difficult to fully fund the Open Space projects, as \$500,000 of the Open Space/Recreation sleeve has been designated for Open Space acquisition.

#### **Scheduling Next Meetings**

The group had difficulty in finding a specific date and time to host Phase 2 presentations by applicants. TP asked GM to send out a Doodle poll. It was noted by FK that even though there was ample time w/

the new schedule, it would be nice to keep the momentum going with the process. The group agreed they could hear all four presentations in one meeting, with a limit of thirty minutes allocated to each applicant.

TP suggested the group schedule site visits prior to the presentation meetings. There was a conversation about the benefit of doing site visits. AH noted that so much CPC money has been invested in some of the destinations in Town, like the Mount or Ventfort Hall, it's nice to go and see what they money has accomplished. The group concluded with the concept that they can individually go and visit these places on their own time.

TP also asked that committee members send any questions they have regarding Phase 2 applications to GM to forward to applicants before their presentations.

FK asked the group if there were initial opinions regarding projects. He felt like there were not any open space priorities to help guide the CPC. AG stated it would be beneficial to have a hierarchical list of open space and historic preservation needs so the Town could pro-actively fund projects rather than reacting to short-term needs.

GM suggested the group could review the Open Space and Recreation Plan for community open space priorities.

CG asked if that was also a role of the Land Management Committee: to prioritize items in the OSRP. He also noted the new schedule for CPC provided a formal venue to capture community priorities and input through the May public hearing.

KMV invited everybody to the Lenox Land Trust's Annual Meeting on December 10 at the Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.