Community Preservation Committee

Meeting 2/2/21

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

**Documents available:** meeting agenda, 1/25/21 meeting minutes, presentation materials from Church on the Hill and Trinity Church

**Members Present:** Tony Patella, Chuck Koscher, Frederick Keator, Tom Delasco, Mark Smith, Catherine May, Olga Weiss

**Also Present:** Eileen Mahoney, representing Trinity Church and Church on the Hill

**Absent:** Neal Maxymillian, Max Scherff

**Approval of minutes (1/25)**

CK made motion to accept minutes

TD seconded

All in favor

1. **Church on the Hill**

EM describes two projects: restoration of the tower clock on the church building and the installation of sump pump and drains at the chapel building by Lilac Park.

FK asks about records of previous restoration efforts funded by CPC related to the church building. Also asked if committee thought drainage would be maintenance

MS and TD said it seemed like the drainage work was necessary to protect historic building.

EM explained they were working with a local engineer to on the drainage and had worked with a historic clock expert on the clock project.

1. **Trinity Church**

Explained onus for preservation request—Trinity Church has been doing substantial work on their campus and buildings to make them more accessible and usable. The current request is to repair specific portions of roof on the church and on the parish house. The sum requested from the CPC will be about half of the total cost. EM shared photos showing interior water damage.

TD commented that the Trinity request is very similar to St. Ann’s request.

FK asked what is next for Trinity.

EM stated that the in fall will configure triangle between Kemble and Walker street, working with DPW Superintendent Bill Gop, will remove trees and allow for donated trees in memorial of loved ones, will shift existing walkway. Goal is to make area open and welcoming to public.

After that, end of work for foreseeable future except for a master plan update—want to leave the church in good stead for the next stewards going forward.

**Old Business**

Committee members had questions in response to January 25 meeting’s presentations.

CK asked about the source of Affordable Housing Trust funding. FK said it was primarily CPC funds over time, some general fund, and some donations. GM pointed out that CPC is primarily Trust funding in most communities with housing trusts; finding a sustainable source of revenue is hard for Housing Trusts in general.

CM asked about likelihood of Lenox getting CDBG funds for housing rehabilitation; GM said the competition varied from year to year; Lenox’s need indicators have gone up, and when partnered with other Towns with higher indicators, it helps make a more compelling case. She noted the regional application last year did not demonstrate enough households on the wait list, but this could probably be increased.

CK said he was uncomfortable funding program they might not pursue.

CK also expressed reservation regarding the library request, noting it is such a large project. He does not think it should depend on CPC funds.

FK worries the town will pay for the library twice—CPC was used to buy the building, and now some CPC funds will be used to restore the building.

There was some broad discussion of the CPC long term strategy—how much has been allocated toward historic preservation over time, and how to think about allocating funds sustainably going forward.

FK reiterated that they need more information for library; would like to hear from other entities in the community, such as the Permanent Building Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

It was suggested that the CPC funding be contingent on securing of other funds, such as the grants the library is pursuing.

Prior to adjournment, TD and FK, CK, CM, TP disclosed they are members of the St Ann’s Parish and felt they could fairly review their grant request.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.