**Town of Lenox**

**Community Preservation Committee**

**March 8, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Via Zoom**

**Members present:** Anthony Patella (AP), Tom Delasco (TD), Frederick Keator (FK), Olga Weiss (OW), Mark Smith (SM)

**Members absent**: Catherine May, Max Scherff, Chuck Koscher, Neal Maxymillian

**Others present:** Gwen Miller, Katie O’Neil, Bill Gop, Ed Lane, Marybeth Mitts, Clarence Fanto, Bruce Gamble

**Approval of Minutes:** TD moved to approved the minutes of February 10, 2020. FK seconded. TP suggested two small amendments. All approved as amended.

**Discussion of Lenox Library Phase 2 Application and Decision**

TD provided an update based on recent Permanent Building Committee (PBC) meetings at which the library dome room ceiling restoration project had been discussed. He indicated they had selected the architect for the initial, exploratory work and Katie O’Neil, Lenox Library Director, stated the work to gain safe access to the dome room ceiling and remove insulation to gain a full understanding of required next steps had started. TD explained that the town had a list of funding sources to pursue for the full project cost of an estimated $1,000,000, including borrowing, grant funds, CPC, the library association, and a general fund appropriation.

Ed Lane reiterated that the town was going to finance the project and it is important to have the CPC’s support. Marybeth Mitts stated they are proposing a borrowing authorization of $1,000,000.00 at Town Meeting. They are seeking funding from multiple sources to spread the investment and responsibility. This year, they are deferring all capital projects because of the financial uncertainty wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is important to be cooperative and share the project across revenue streams. She pointed out that CPA funds are specifically allocated toward historic preservation projects (as well as community housing, open space & recreation), and that this is an ideal project to receive CPC funding.

FK made a point of order. The project still needs to be recommended to Town Meeting by the CPC. And should this be made contingent on other funding?

FK also pointed out that whether an appropriation is made with CPC dollars or general fund dollars, or a bond is taken on, the sources are mostly Lenox taxpayer dollars. MBM pointed out that CPC funds are matched by the state. FK reiterated that most of the CPC funds are local Lenox tax receipts. MBM reiterated that CPC allows for the specific expenditure on historic preservation projects.

FK concluded by stating he is in support of the project but wants everybody to clearly know the source of the project funding.

FK moved to recommend $100,000 toward the Lenox Library dome ceiling restoration project. TD seconded.

All were in favor.

FK moved to transfer $100,000 from the undesignated reserve account to Historic Preservation for the Lenox Library Dome Ceiling Restoration Project. TD seconded.

All in favor.

FK moved to transfer $118,875 from the undesignated reserve account to Historic Preservation for the annual library debt service payment.

TD seconded.

All in favor.

FK moved to move $37,500 from the undesignated reserve account to each of the following accounts:

Historic Preservation

Community Housing

Open Space and Rec

TD seconded. All in favor.

FK moved to not put new funds into the administration sleeve this year. TD seconded. All in favor

FK makes point about future applications and meetings—he wished the CPC had been provided more information early on regarding the library project, so they could have made a more timely decision. TP and TD agreed, though TP though the library application was well put together and he appreciated the time spent getting additional information to the CPC and to the PBC. FK suggested next time the project application could come from PBC.

Motion to adjourn by FK, seconded by TD, all in favor at 7:49 pm.