**Town of Lenox**

**Community Preservation Committee**

**MINUTES**

***November 25, 2019***

*Members Present:* Anthony Patella (Chair, Community Center), Tom Delasco (Vice Chair, Planning Board), Neal Maxymillian (Board of Selectmen), Olga Weiss (Historical Commission), Catherine May (Housing Authority), Frederick Keator (At Large)

*Absent w/ Notification:* Max Scherff (At Large), Chuck Koscher (At Large)

*Community members:* Mark Smith (Conservation Commission), Gwen Miller (Land Use Director/Town Planner); Eileen Mahoney (Trinity Church), Michael Tuck (Trinity Church), Susan Wissler (The Mount), Becky Cushing (Mass Audubon), Keith Belton (Lenox Pickleball), Tom Mooney (Lenox Pickleball), Lucy Kennedy (Historical Commission), Jan Chague (Historical Commission), Beverly Rainey (Ventfort Hall), Rachel Coll (Ventfort Hall)

**Review of CPA Balance**

GM provided information from the town accountant depicting the funds available in the Community Preservation Act accounts. It was noted that the town would be receiving the lowest state match to date.

**Approval of Minutes**

None were submitted.

**Review of Phase 1 Applications**

**Lenox Club**

The Committee reviewed the Phase 1 application for the Lenox Club’s restoration of the ice house on their property. The applicant is seeking $15,000 for this restoration under the category of Historic Preservation. There was no representative of the Lenox Club at this meeting.

The Committee approved the Phase 1 application, noting the following questions for the Phase 2 application:

* What would the public benefit of the ice house restoration be?
* What is the status of the Lenox Club in terms of non-profit/private status?

The Committee voted to approve the Phase 1 application.

**Trinity Church**

Trinity Church representatives presented their request for $113,264.50 for Historic Resources purposes, specifically the restoration of the Parish House and Rectory Porch, and the chimney on the south side of the church building facing the Rectory. Ms. Mahony noted that the project lines up with their broader improvement strategy, and outlined the sequence of work. The Committee voted to approve the Phase 1 application.

**The Mount**

Susan Wissler presented the request from The Mount, describing the work to date to preserve neighboring property from development and include it in a trail network that will be open to the public. Mass Audubon is their partner in the development restriction and will be helping in the development and maintenance of the trail network. The CPA request is for funds to create a master plan for the trail network in total of $125,000 under the categories of Open Space, Recreation and Historic Resources.

The Committee voted to approve the Phase 1 application.

**Ventfort Hall**

Rachel Coll, representing Ventfort Hall, explained their request for $50,000 of Historic Resources funds. The funds would go toward the “tower” on the east end of the mansion. The Committee asked how this would fit in with the broader master plan completed by Ventfort Hall a few years ago. Ms. Coll explained that it would allow further sealing of the mansion, and allow for the remainder of the mansion's second floor to be restored and open to the public over time.

The Committee voted to approve the Phase 1 application.

**Lenox Pickleball**

The Lenox Pickleball Association presented their request for $120,000 to $140,000 to create new pickleball courts somewhere in Lenox. They noted the growing demand for pickleball facilities, and noted that tournaments are a good way to bring people to Lenox for extended stays. They also noted that residents and visitors of all ages can play pickleball.

The Committee suggested they comeback with a Phase 2 application with a specific location and cost identified.

The Committee voted to approve the Phase 1 application.

**Lenox Historical Commission**

The Historical Commission submitted two applications: one for securing historical consultant services in the amount of $15,000 and one for $250,000 to create a revolving loan fund to secure historic buildings and prevent “demolition by neglect”. NM indicated he thought the $15,000 request for historical consultant services could come from the operating budget, and noted he would bring this up with the Town Manager Christopher Ketchen as the annual budget was being prepared. LK and JC agreed to withdraw the request for $15,000. After discussion regarding the logistics and technical aspects, LK and JC also agreed to withdraw the request for $250,000. There was agreement between Historical Commission representatives and the CPC that the idea needed refinement.