

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**MEETING MINUTES****Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

Please be advised, a quorum of the Community Preservation Committee WAS NOT CONVENED Tuesday, October 13, 2020 for the meeting (/public workshop) with the Planning Board to discuss review the Community Preservation Act and the preparation of a Community Preservation Plan for the Town of Northbridge.

Reference is made to Planning Board meeting minutes for October 13, 2020; where Glenn King, Chair of the Community Presentation Committee (CPC) provided an overview on the Community Preservation Act and the Community Preservation Plan currently being drafted by the CPC. Also, in attendance were Harry Berkowitz and Rainer Forst, both of which are Planning Board members, and both being appointed to serve on the CPC.

Provided below is an excerpt of the Planning Board meeting minutes for October 13, 2020:

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN (DRAFT) – REVIEW/DISCUSSION

Joint meeting with Community Preservation Committee

Public Forum/Informational Workshop

Discussion was originally scheduled for April 2020, however postponed due to COVID-19, State of Emergency. Glenn King, Chair of the Northbridge Community Preservation Committee (CPC) provided the Planning Board with an overview on Community Preservation Act (CPA) and how local adoption of the CPA is being administered in Northbridge. G. King explained the Committee is comprised of nine (9) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen; including representatives from the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Playground & Recreation, Historic Commission, School Committee, Housing Authority and three members at large. It was noted Rainer Forst represents the Planning Board and Harry Berkowitz is one of the members at large.

Glenn King explained that Northbridge adopted the Community Preservation Act in 2017. The Community Preservation Act created a mechanism for towns adopting the CPA, to address open space and recreation projects, affordable housing needs and historic preservation. In Northbridge CPA has a 1% surcharge on property taxes. G. King explained that the CPC is currently preparing a Community Preservation Plan for the town, noting the purpose of tonight's discussion is to introduce the draft CP Plan to the public for initial review and feedback before the plan is formally adopted by the CPC.

G. King explained the CP Plan will identify goals for the four (4) eligible CPA funding categories (Community Housing, Historic Resources, Open Space, and Recreational Use); establishes application and review procedures and process in which CPA funds may be awarded (Town Meeting vote). The CPC will review all project applications received and must decide whether to sponsor projects for Town Meeting considerations. At Town Meeting, the cost can be approved as submitted or reduced, but the cost cannot be increased.

J. Berkowitz wanted to know if there are any projects in mind yet and what the current balance is in the CPA account. G. King explained that there is about \$50,000 allocated in each category (Community Housing,

Historic Resources, and Open Space & Recreational Use) and about \$300,000 to \$340,000 unallocated in reserves currently. H. Berkowitz mentioned that the Town can borrow funds (bond) and pay the bond back with future CPA funds. Projects can also be leveraged from other sources such as matching grants.

Mike Bangma (resident) thanked Glenn King and commented this was a great explanation of how CPA funds may be used in town. He then wanted to know if the Town will be looking at large undeveloped open spaces such as the Castle Hill property to preserve and not develop it. There are also properties owned by the town or State that do not have parking that could be improved. He also suggested that the town beach on Meadow Pond may also be looked at. G. King thanked Mr. Bangma and explained that any individual resident, board/committee or local organization may submit an application for requesting CPA funds.

G. King advised the Planning Board that the CPC is scheduled to meet November 02, 2020 to continue the review of the draft Community Preservation Plan and hopes to formally adopt the Plan early next year.

Respectfully submitted by,



R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner

Date approved: _____

N/A

Cc: Town Clerk