
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 07, 2020

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30A Section 18 and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings of the Northbridge Community Preservation Committee shall be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided in the Order.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Roll-Call Attendance

Recognizing the presence of a quorum Glenn King, Chair called meeting (via ZOOM) to order at 6:30 PM; with Rainer Forst, Michael Proto, Brian Paulus, Harry Berkowitz, and Barbara McNamee in attendance with John O'Brien participating however experiencing technical difficulties. R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner /CPC Admin and Lenny Smith, Chair of the Northbridge Historic Commission were also in attendance.

Two (2) open vacancies: Northridge Historic Commission representative and Member at-large.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

November 02, 2020

Motion was made (H. Berkowitz) and seconded (B. Paulus) to approve the November 02, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion was carried unanimously.

II. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN (DRAFT)

Glenn King thanked Gary Bechtholdt for putting the draft Community Preservation Plan together; Committee members acknowledged the work and effort made by Mr. Bechtholdt, suggesting the Community Preservation Coalition may want to consider this as a prototype model.

In preparation of the scheduling a public hearing for adoption of Northbridge's Community Preservation Plan, the Committee members reviewed the format and context of the draft: Introduction; CPA in Northbridge; How CPA Funds may be Used; CPA Funding Goals; Funding Application Process; etc.

G. King offered some background and summation for each section /page of the draft [Introduction & General Overview sections]. Mr. King explained how valuable a resource the Community Preservation Coalition webpage is to see how funds may be spent and how CPA funds have been spent within other communities of Massachusetts.

Chair Glenn King then briefly reviewed with the Committee members Goals for each of the funding eligible components (Community Housing, Historic Resources, and Open Space & Recreational Use) and asked each Committee member, representing their individual Committee/Board/Commission if they had any comments or suggestions at this time.

G. Bechtholdt noted as part of the public hearing review, the Committee shall solicit formal comment from the various town boards & committees before closing and adopting the Plan. Mr. King agreed and noted the Plan will be a living documents, where the CPC may review and update each year based upon local initiatives and goals for the town (residents).

Committee members offered comment on wording within the Recreational Use section and other suggested edits to page 18. Mr. King then briefly reviewed the CPA Funding Application Process and Application Review (requirements/timeline/etc.); Application Consideration Guidelines; Leveraging of Funds; CPA Funding Award Process; Project Implementation; Awarding of Funds; Disbursement of CPA Funds; and Acknowledgment included at the end of the CP Plan.

Committee members then reviewed the Project Pre-Application and Application forms, noting application preparation on behalf of Applicants needs to be fully vetted and the review/consideration of the Committee needs to be properly and thoroughly vetted as well. Committee felt the draft was ready for others to review and at a point where a Public Hearing should be scheduled.

IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Scheduling of Public Hearing

Upon motion made (H. Berkowitz) and seconded (B. McNamee) the Committee scheduled a public hearing for Monday, January 11, 2021 (6:30 PM). G. Bechtholdt noted that he would prepare the legal ad publication and provide notice to the various town boards & committees. CPC members were asked to present the draft Plan to their respective boards/committees to seek support and input during the public hearing process. G. King also instructed Mr. Bechtholdt to forward a draft to the Community Preservation Coalition for their review & comment. Mr. Bechtholdt recommended once the Committee opened its hearing that they keep it open for a few weeks to allow for public comment,, etc. and suggested he and the CPC Chair (G. King) attend an upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting (January 25) to provide them (and the public) with an overview and status of CPA in Northbridge.

Scheduling of next Meeting

Committee scheduled its next meeting for Monday, January 11, 2021 (6:30 PM -via ZOOM). G. Bechtholdt reminded Committee members of the need to satisfy/complete the Conflict of Interest forms and to contact the Town Clerk's Office accordingly.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Having not additional business, the Committee adjourned its meeting of December 07, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner

Date approved: _____

Cc: Town Clerk