
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES**Monday, January 11, 2021**

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 John O’Brien, Rainer Forst, Michael Proto, Brian Paulus, Harry Berkowitz, and Barbara McNamee in attendance. R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner /CPC Admin was also in attendance.

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

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

December 07, 2020

Meeting minutes for December 07, 2020 tabled to the next meeting.

II. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN (DRAFT) -Public Hearing

Upon motion duly made (H. Berkowitz) and seconded (R. Forst) the Committee waived the reading of the public hearing notice; vote was unanimous (7-0).

In accordance with MGL Ch 44B [Community Preservation] and local bylaw provisions, the Northbridge Community Preservation Committee shall hold a Public Hearing Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:30 PM (via ZOOM) to consider adoption of Northbridge’s Community Preservation Plan (CP Plan). The CP Plan is a guidance document which defines goals for Community Housing, Historic Resources, Open Space and Recreation; describes how CPA funds may be used; establishes application process; and criteria for selecting projects to be considered at Town Meeting. A copy of the CP Plan (draft) is on file with Town Clerk (7 Main Street) and Community Planning & Development (14 Hill Street) and may be viewed online at northbridgemass.org/community-preservation-committee. As provided for under the Governor’s Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, GL c. 30A Sec 18, the Community Preservation Committee shall meet via virtual means (ZOOM Meeting). Anyone wishing to be heard may submit comments directly to the Community Preservation Committee at cpc@northbridgemass.org. or participate during the public hearing; Meeting ID/Passcode to be included on posted Agenda of the Northbridge Community Preservation Committee.

Committee members opened the public hearing. Gary Bechtholdt indicated the hearing notice was published in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette and posted with the Town Clerk, noting the draft Community Preservation Plan is available online for public review & comment.

Glenn King (Chair) informed the Committee that he received an inquiry from a member of the Northbridge Fire Department about using CPA funds to restore an antique fire engine. G. King explained and encouraged CPC members to visit the Community Preservation Coalition webpage, to see what towns can & can't do with CPA funds, noting he learned about 5 or 6 towns have in fact used funds to restore antique fire engines. Mr. Bechtholdt suggested the individual (from the NFD) can contact him, to review the application process and share what process other towns completed to fund a similar project.

G. King identified the various sections of the draft Community Preservation Plan and looked for input/discussion from Committee members. Committee then sought input and comment from the public; having none, Mr. Bechtholdt reminded Committee members, if they have not already done so, they should have their individual committees offer comment to the CPC on the draft Community Preservation Plan.

Mr. Bechtholdt suggested the Committee keep the public hearing open to allow committee members to report back to their board/committees and provide additional time for the Community Preservation Coalition is to provide their review comments on the draft CP Plan. G. Bechtholdt explained to the Committee that arrangements have been made for the Board of Selectmen to review at its meeting scheduled for January 25, 2021.

After some discussion on upcoming meeting dates, *the Committee upon motion duly made (H. Berkowitz) and seconded (M. Proto) voted to continue the public hearing for local adoption of a Community Preservation Plan to Monday, March 0, 2021 (6:30 PM);* the vote was unanimous.

IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

CPC Annual Report

G. Bechtholdt informed the Committee they need to prepare an Annual Report to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen/Town Clerk for inclusion in the 2020 Town Report. Mr. Bechtholdt offered to prepare a draft for the Committee.

Scheduling of Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting of the Community Preservation Committee is Monday, March 01, 2021 (6:30 PM -via ZOOM).

V. ADJOURNMENT

Having no additional business, the Community Preservation Committee, upon motion made (H. Berkowitz) and seconded (B. McNamee) adjourned its meeting of January 11, 2021 at 6:50 PM; vote was unanimous.

[Prepared by John O'Brien, Clerk]

Respectfully submitted by,

R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner

Date approved: _____

Cc: Town Clerk