

City of Newton



Ruthanne Fuller,
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Department of Planning and Development
1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Telephone
(617) 796-1120
Telefax
(617) 796-1142
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
www.newtonma.gov

Barney S. Heath
Director

Community Preservation Committee

APPROVED MINUTES

October 11, 2022

The virtual meeting was held online on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, beginning at 7:03 P.M. Community Preservation Committee (CPC) members present included Mark Armstrong, Dan Brody, Eliza Datta, Byron Dunker, Susan Lunin, Robert Maloney and Judy Weber. Committee Members Jennifer Molinsky and Martin Smargiassi were not present at this time. Community Preservation Program Manager Lara Kritzer was also present and served as recorder.

Vice Chair Eliza Datta acted as Chair for this meeting and opened the Community Preservation Committee's public meeting at 7:00 P.M and introduced the CPC members present at this time. Ms. Datta noted that there were no new proposals to review at this time but invited the public to stay for the discussion on existing projects. Ms. Weber offered to review the draft minutes for this meeting.

Update on Existing Projects and Funding Recommendations

Ms. Kritzer reviewed the Active Funded Projects Current Status report with members at this time, noting their completion status and the amount of funding used to date. She noted that the Crescent Street Site Assessment, Feasibility and Design project is still listed as an open project but has been on hold since 2018. Mr. Brody explained the history of the site, which was originally taken by the State for the Massachusetts Turnpike construction. The Turnpike construction caused the destruction of much of the Myrtle Baptist Church neighborhood but not all of the sites were actually needed in the end, and the property was later declared surplus and given to the City which used it as the headquarters for the Parks and Recreation Department until relatively recently. The CPA funding was allocated to the City in two funding rounds to consider the construction of a new park and affordable housing on the site. Mr. Brody explained that the project had been very controversial, with many in the affordable housing community concerned with the low number of units in the development and the high cost per unit of the construction. Ms. Kritzer stated that she had reached out to the project applicants about the status of the project.

Members discussed the prior history of the Crescent Street project. Ms. Weber thought that it might be worth bringing the new Newton Affordable Housing Trust (NAHT) into the discussion. Ms. Datta agreed that the Trust might want to add it to their list of potential future project sites and asked whether there was a deadline for the use of the funds. Ms. Kritzer explained that the grant agreements always included a requirement that the funding be used by a specified date but that City projects did not have grant agreements, so there was no set time limit for those funds. Ms. Datta stated that she was not aware that the City projects did not have grant agreements and members

website www.newtonma.gov/cpa

staff contact Lara Kritzer, Community Preservation Program Manager

email lkritzer@newtonma.gov, *phone* 617.796.1144

discussed the post funding process. Mr. Brody noted that there was not a great deal of funding left in the Crescent Street account.

Members continued their review of the list of current projects. Ms. Weber noted that the Haywood House project was anticipated to be ready for occupancy in February 2023. Ms. Kritzer updated members on the status of the New Art Center, which was in the process of finishing their grant agreement and had recently contacted staff about accessing their funding. Mr. Brody asked about the status of Boston College's lawsuit over Webster Woods and noted that the City might come back with a request for more funds depending on the results of that case. Staff stated that they had not had a recent update and would check with the Law Department.

Concerning future projects, Mr. Dunker stated that the Parks and Recreation Department was getting ready to submit a large project application in November. Ms. Datta suggested that the CPA funding requests include the Trust funds request for next year as well. It was also noted that the Committee was interested in doing a bonding analysis to see if that could be an option for the anticipated Recreation requests. Mr. Dunker thought that the overall amount that would be requested for the Athletic Fields and Gath Pool construction could be close to the amount bonded for the Webster Woods project.

Review of Current Finances

Members reviewed the most recent Finances at a Glance document at this time. Ms. Kritzer noted that all of the CPA funding recommendations had now been passed by City Council.

Review of Updated Logo Design

Members reviewed the updated draft logo designs that were received from the Newton North High School's graphic design program and sent out prior to the meeting. Ms. Weber stated that she liked the drawings but thought that the text might be too small. Other members were also concerned with the scale of the draft logo. Members also stated that they would like to see the design revised so that the picture "popped" a little more. Overall Members agreed that the design was good and that they liked the three color scheme. Members asked staff to also pass on the following edits to the NNHS designers:

- The four category boxes should have bigger and bolder words.
- The four drawings should have bolder drawing lines and be larger in comparison to the lettering.
- The green boxes should be outlined bolder.
- The left side (categories) and right side (organization name) would be more visually balanced.

Approval of June 14, July 12, and August 9 Minutes

Members had reviewed the draft minutes prior to the meeting. Ms. Lunin moved to approve the draft minute for the June 14, July 12, and August 9 meeting as submitted. Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

Mr. Armstrong moved to adjourn. Ms. Lunin seconded the motion which passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.