

Community Preservation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 19th, 2023

Present: Tom Callahan, (Chair), Jenny Russell (Vice Chair), Peter Jackson (Treasurer) Linda Weld, Joseph Duffy, Kathleen O'Donnell, Ted Carroll, Cheryl Tougias, Sr. Administrative Clerk Julia Getman.

Absent: Wendy Garpow.

1. Administrative Items:

The third meeting of FY2024 was called to order via Zoom at 7:02 p.m. An upcoming meeting was confirmed for July 26th. Mr. Callahan introduced the Committee members and mentioned that \$3 million had been requested in funding applications and that there was just over \$1 million to spend.

2. Review and Discussion of Eligibility Applications:

Manning Park Pergola: Town Administrator Nicholas Milano displayed renderings of a pergola designed for the southern end of Manning Park. He said the design and feedback process had been completed and the project was ready to go out to bid. He said that it would provide shade and could be used for concerts and events. He said that District Representative William Driscoll would provide \$100,000 towards the cost and that \$250,000 was being asked of the CPC for purchase and installation. The total cost of the project is \$750,000. Organizing programming was discussed and it was suggested that East Milton developers contribute to the cost.

Town Center Basketball Court: Marianne Zullas discussed needed upgrades to the basketball court at the corner of Walnut and Clapp Streets. The benefits of exercise and open space and the rebuilding of the fire station were addressed. Landscaping, repaving and new hoops were expected to cost \$75,000 and the court is expected to be used by public school students and seniors at the Council on Aging. Parks and Recreation will provide maintenance.

Brook Walk Study: Applicant Jeffrey Stone presented plans for a feasibility study on the development of a trail along Pine Tree Brook connecting Milton's bodies of water. \$30,000 was requested for the three-mile trail leading to the Neponset which would include educational signage and mileage markers.

Blue Hills Observatory Fence Repair: Applicant Barbara Farina gave a presentation on the history of the observatory and its recent restoration. She discussed the need to remove and reinstall 95 feet of the 118-year-old wrought iron fence, the "gateway to the observatory," which has rusted and deteriorated and provides an essential security element to the observatory and science center. A request for \$25,000 for repairs was made.

Andrews Park Water Station: Applicant Andrew D'Amato stated that Andrews Park is the most used park in Milton and had a water fountain which was removed. He discussed Elka and Aquafil brand specifications and the benefits of reducing plastic bottle use. He said that there would be minimal maintenance costs and that it would be DPW-owned. \$10,000 in funding was requested.

Affordable Housing Trust: AHT applicant Julie Creamer, who had received CPA funding in FY2023, discussed the mission of the AHT and said that efforts were currently being made to create affordable housing at the Town Farm. She said an application for 33% of CPA funds, estimated at approximately \$350,000, had been submitted. Mr. Callahan asked Ms. Creamer if Winter Valley's application for affordable housing should go through the AHT, which she believed it should, due to the AHT's expertise in managing funds and "asking the right questions." She said that the AHT has been working on off-site housing projects and said that having the AHT funded creates leverage for additional affordable units.

Comments from Additional Applicants: There were no comments.

3. Discussion of Grant Agreements

It was agreed that all Historic Preservation projects should be required to uphold the standards of the Secretary of the Interior. The Town Lock-up, the Eustice Estate and the Forbes House Museum applications were referenced. Ms. O'Donnell stated that the funds provided need to be used for the purposes they are awarded for or returned to the CPC account. Having the CPC funding recipients provide status reports was discussed. It was noted that private projects must retain a certain level of autonomy in order not to be considered municipal projects involving public bidding. Requesting reports from the Parks and Recreation and Conservation Commission were considered. Mr. Jackson stated that he was working with the Town's Accounting Department to set up funding accounts and line items for each of the grants. He said

that quarterly reports on incoming and outgoing CPA funds would be provided. It was suggested that the CPC provide a more detailed report of the projects funded for inclusion in the Town's Annual Report. It was suggested that a one-page narrative on the status of certain projects be provided by grantees. A database would be developed to keep track of CPC projects.

On a motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Russell, the Committee voted to authorize Ms. O'Donnell and Mr. Callahan to distribute the grant agreements to the FY2024 grantees, 6/0/0.

4. Site Walk Discussion

Mr. Callahan asked about scheduling site walks for the estuary and the cemetery. It was suggested that he choose a date and time and share it with the Committee.

5. Adjourn: On a motion by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Duffy, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Th Call", is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas Callahan, Chair