

Community Preservation Committee

Minutes

Date: August 19, 2020

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Committee Members: Didi Chadran, Doug Thornton, Pam Marston, Beth Williams, Jo Ward, John Lee, Stacia Donahue, Michelle Catalina

Absent: Fran Nickerson

Guests: Stu Sklar – Harvard Select Board, Michael Barton – Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

Meeting Convened at 7:31 pm

1. Roll Call, Sound Check were done. Preamble, Rules for Participation, and Reminder that meeting materials are available online and that this meeting is being recorded were read.
2. **Public Comment Period** - None
3. **Review Minutes from 7/22/2020 Meeting** – Minutes accepted as submitted.
4. **Treasurer's Report** - John Lee did not have anything new to report this month.
5. **Implementation Planning for Emergency Rental Assistance for Harvard Renters** - Town Meeting will be October 3, 2020. Deadline for Warrant Article submissions is September 1, 2020. MAHT met August 5. Definite agreement on value of Emergency Rental Assistance, but no idea as towards implementation. MAHT has approximately \$170,000.00 in its coffers. Approximately \$140,000 is earmarked for another project. Chris Ryan suggested using Assabet Regional Housing Consortium as a source for a path forward. Shared model in place for town, for oversight. CPA Coalition points to Mass Housing Partnership for documents to enable rental assistance. Harvard's MAHT charter does not currently allow this type of assistance. Should this expanded scope be added to MAHT's charter? Should the Select Board broaden MAHT's scope. Could the Town Planner handle this? 56% of renters in the Town of Harvard and Devens are paying more than 30% of their income on rent. Devens pays its taxes to Mass Development. Is the goal to provide rental assistance for people who have lost their jobs? 66 rental units are Seniors. Could CPC infuse for a housing reserve fund? Stu Sklar doesn't think that CPC will have the answers to these questions in time to have a Warrant Article at the October Town Meeting. Perhaps this project should be brought forward to the Town at the Spring 2021 Town Meeting. Michael has stepped down as Chair of the Trust. Alice Von Loesecke is interim chair.
6. **CPA Project Sign Design Criteria, Implementation Concept, and Presentation to Select Board** - Michelle Catalina had no new updates. Stu Sklar has brought this up to the Select Board and they are behind the project. John Lee proposed that CPC put temporary signs on the Tennis Courts and Bromfield Stone wall, while the projects are being worked. This was unanimously approved.
7. **Conservation Committee Invasive Species Program Update** - Wendy Sisson provided 3-4 years of updates on the Invasive Species Program. Hermann Orchard has been cleaned up. Invasives are a never-ending work in progress.

8. Call for Other Business

- a. Staci Donahue was welcomed at our new Planning Board representative.
- b. Didi Chadran took the Action Item to update the call for Grant Applications and advertising.

Adjourn Meeting – Meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.