

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting
August 19, 2009**

Present: Jane Howard – Chairman, Mark Gluesing – Vice-Chairman
Janet Bernardo, Jack Cogswell, John Comando, Bruce Eisenhut,
Sheila Pransky, Paul Siegenthaler

Absent: Brian Nadler

Town Staff: Patricia Carey, Staff Liaison
Nikki Witham, Recording Secretary

Guests: Dan Matthews – Selectman, Denise Garlick – Selectman, Moe
Handel – Selectman, Richard Creem – Finance Committee, David
Drake – Historical Society, Stuart Saginor – Community
Preservation Coalition

The meeting convened at 7:30 PM in the Historical Society meeting room.

Guest: Stuart Saginor-Community Preservation Coalition- Stuart Saginor, Executive Director of the Community Preservation Coalition discussed the work of the Coalition with the Committee and talked about the pending legislation regarding the recreation piece of the Act. Mr. Saginor highlighted some accomplishments of CPA: as of September 2008, 10,274 acres of open space has been preserved, funding for over 2,300 housing units has been awarded, over 1,300 appropriations for historic resources has been spent, and over 500 appropriations for recreation projects has been spent. The Needham Town Hall project is the largest CPA bonded project thus far. The Coalition is looking to amend the CPA to fix “mistakes” in the wording of the legislation. Three challenges the Coalition is facing are 1) the trust fund matching, 2) adoption patterns of the act, and 3) the wording for recreation uses. The matching funds have decreased in the past few years and it looks like the 2009 match will be about 30%. Ms. Howard noted that the state funds were more properly termed “distribution” rather than “match.”

Currently the legislative bill, SB90-An Act to Sustain Community Preservation is set to go to hearing on September 29th at 11:00AM. The Coalition is looking to do three things, 1) Increase trust fund revenue to guarantee a 75% match on first round CPA funding. If that happens, then 2) they can generate more attractive adoption options for cities, and 3) they would like to clarify the recreation language. Originally, the Committee voted to just focus on the recreation piece of the legislation, but they have decided to rethink their position. Ms. Howard thanked Mr. Saginor for coming to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Cogswell made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 15, 2009. Mr. Comando seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Siegenthaler and Mr. Eisenhut abstained from voting.

Chairman's Comments: Ms. Howard would like the representatives of the Conservation Commission, Historic Commission, Housing Authority, and Park and Recreation Commission to be ready to provide any input on the goals/factors for consideration for your specific area in the CPC Plan for the next meeting.

Other Business: Mr. Siegenthaler asked where the Committee stood with the letter to the Coalition. **Mr. Eisenhut made a motion to reconsider sending the letter to the Coalition regarding the Community Preservation Legislation Amendment. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.** The Committee reviewed the discussion with Stuart Saginor, and are able to better understand the proposed amendment. **The Committee voted and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Comando made a motion that Ms. Howard, with the help of Ms. Carey, draft a new letter in support of SB90-An Act to Sustain Community Preservation to be sent into the Community Preservation Coalition and to Representative Lida Harkins and Senator Scott Brown. The letter shall be copied and reviewed at the next CPC meeting. Mr. Gluesing seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Exception Six: Mr. Cogswell made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property at 9:52PM and not return to the regular meeting. Ms. Bernardo seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote and the motion was approved. Ms. Howard –yes, Mr. Gluesing –yes, Ms. Bernardo –yes, Mr. Cogswell –yes, Mr. Comando –yes, Mr. Eisenhut –yes, Mr. Siegenthaler – yes, Ms. Pransky –yes.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:52PM to go into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Witham
Recording Secretary