

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

**Minutes of Meeting
August 17, 2010**

Present: Jane Howard – Chairman, Mark Gluesing – Vice Chair, Janet Bernardo, Carol Boulris, Bruce Eisenhut, Reg Foster

Absent: Mike Retzky

Town Staff: Patricia Carey, Staff Liaison
Nicole DiCicco, Recording Secretary

Other Guests: Richard Creem

The special meeting convened at 5:15 PM in the Park and Recreation Department Office in the Public Services Administration Building (PSAB).

Preservation of Town Hall: Proposal to provide access to balcony:

The Committee reviewed information from the Permanent Public Building Committee (PPBC) related to additional work at the Town Hall balcony. Ms. Howard and Mr. Gluesing explained that in order to utilize the balcony and an additional 100 seats, two means of egress are required. A bridge can be built from the new building, creating an access from the elevator to the balcony. A doorway would need to be created, and some of the platform area would need to be removed to provide wheelchair seating. Some sections of molding would also be removed, but the consensus was that it be saved for repairs or other uses. The stairs leading to the balcony do not meet current building codes. The PPBC would request a waiver, in order to preserve the historic features of the stairway. If the waiver were not approved, the PPBC would re-use as much of the current stairway as possible. Official approval for the change in scope of the project will be needed from the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board, but the CPC is being asked for an opinion.

Mr. Eisenhut made a motion to approve the following statement in response to the Permanent Public Building Committee's question of the balcony, "*We, the CPC, see the rehabilitation of the balcony as consistent with the intent of our original vote and the rehabilitation standards we used to evaluate the Town Hall Project. We urge the PPBC to diligently pursue every opportunity to obtain the waiver to preserve the historical staircase.*" Ms. Boulris seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Mr. Gluesing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM. Ms. Bernardo seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DiCicco
Recording Secretary