

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

**Minutes of Public Hearing
March 14, 2012**

Present: Mark Gluesing – Chairman, Janet Carter Bernardo – Vice Chair,
Carol Boulris, Reg Foster, Mike Retzky, Sam Warner, Lita Young

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

Presenters: Tedi Eaton, Needham Town Clerk
Gloria Greis, Needham Historical Society
Rick Hardy, Needham Historical Commission
John Grugan and Maria McTernan, Charles River Center

Guests: Steve Rosenstock, Finance Committee
Susan Welby, Needham Historical Society Volunteer

The meeting convened at 7:30 PM in the Highland Meeting Room located in Needham Town Hall.

Chairman Updates: Mr. Gluesing took this time to explain the Town Counsel's decision to have him and Ms. Boulris kept out of all conversations relating to this year's Historical Preservation projects due to their being on the Needham Historical Societies board. He then turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Ms. Bernardo.

7:33 PM - Mr. Gluesing and Ms. Boulris exited the room for the Historical Resources presentations. They both will return after conversations regarding FY2012-1, FY2012-3 and FY2012-4 have concluded

Project Presentations, Questions from Public:

- a. **FY2012-03:** Mr. Hardy presented the Needham Historical Commissions Heritage Project Historical Inventory to the Committee and attending residents. Using the 1970's version of the inventory and the updated version that was completed two years ago as reference, there were not many questions from the audience. Ms. Bernardo was curious about if the properties had to be at least 100 years old and if one homeowner wanted to be a part of this project this year and sold their house in the future, would it be possible to have the home taken off the historic list? Mr. Hardy explained that the homes the Historical Commission would be looking for are at least 100 years old or are of historical significance to the area. As for removing a home from the historical list, he would have to look further into it since it is not something that has been done.

Mr. Rosenstock asked about whether the updated version had been digitized and how many additional homes will be added onto the complete list as part of this project. Mr. Hardy explained that all the updated records would be done on a computer, so having digital copies would be a part of the total project, including the approximately 40 homes that will be added onto the original list with the completion of this project.

- b. **FY2012-04:** Ms. Eaton presented the Town Clerk's Preservation of Historical Documents project to the Committee and attending residents. There were no questions from the Committee or audience for Ms. Eaton after her presentation.
- c. **FY2012-01:** Ms. Greis presented the Needham Historical Society's proposed storage project with a power-point presentation of the information previously handed out to the CPC members as part of her first presentation. She explained that if this project were approved, one professional would be hired to handle the initial artifact documentation and storage while training volunteer assistants. She noted the it was important to understand the this project is a huge undertaking and the parts that have been described to CPC have been to explain what she dubbed "the starting point" of re-organizing and documenting all the artifacts in the Historical Society's possession.

Mr. Warner asked if there would be a particular method for choosing what items are recorded and stored now as opposed to those items that can be held off on until a later time. Ms. Greis explained that while everything in the collection is important to Needham's history, there are certain items, used more regularly by the school department and other organizations that would benefit by being more accessible and better documented. Those items from the Needham Public Schools syllabus would be a top priority with this project, but other items that are of general interest would also be on the list. With the ultimate goal of giving anyone in Needham access to the complete collection of historical items, relevant directly to the Town and this area of the state, this project would be given a jump start with the hired professional, but would not actually be complete until the entire inventory has been documented. Steve Rosenstock, from the Finance Committee, asked if the consultant would be a contractor or an employee. Ms. Greis stated that it would be a consultant.

8:05 PM - Mr. Gluesing and Ms. Boulris returned to the meeting room at this time to hear the Affordable Housing presentation.

- d. **FY2012-02:** John Grugan made his presentation on the Charles River Center (CRC) project to build a home for the disabled on South Street. He explained the background of the similar Wayland project and provided materials on all he has already shared with the Committee. He spoke in detail about the CRC and the opportunities they have made available to many disabled adult and children in the

region and discussed the continued need for housing for these individuals and families. Ms. McTernan then spoke in detail about annual fundraising efforts and how the funds accumulated through these efforts would now be applied towards this project. She also presented several grants that they have, and would be applying for in the near future and the dates which she expected to hear back on their eligibility.

Ms. Bernardo questioned what the CRC would do if they were unable to reach their fundraising goals. Mr. Grugan explained that if they did not reach their goal that while it would not be ideal, it would be possible to find the funds by cutting other programming or delaying the project. There was also a discussion about delaying the request until further information is available on actual costs and grant and fundraising results.

With no additional questions from the public, Mr. Gluesing closed the Public Hearing at 8:45 PM.

Mr. Gluesing reminded the Committee that they will be voting on the CPC decision that will be presented at Town Meeting during their next scheduled meeting, on Wednesday, March 21, 2012. He hopes to speak further about the Charles River Center project at that time.

Mr. Gluesing asked Mr. Foster on the current status of the Needham Housing Authority project, approved in FY2011. Mr. Foster explained that the issues with DHCD were now being resolved and that they should be moving forward very soon. Mr. Foster will put together a more detailed update for the Committee for their next meeting.

Adjournment: Ms. Boulris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM. Ms. Bernardo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DiCicco
Recording Secretary