COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Minutes of Meeting
January 8, 2014

PRESENT: Janet Bernardo – Chair, Lita Young - Vice Chair, Robert Boder, Gary Crossen, Reg Foster, Mark Gluesing, Mike Retzky, Sam Bass Warner

STAFF: Patricia Carey, Staff Liaison

GUESTS: Ed Olsen, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry

Ms. Bernardo called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Highland Room at Town Hall.

Chairman's Comments: Ms. Bernardo announced that Paul Siegenthaler contacted her and offered his resignation from the committee, due to scheduling conflicts. The Town Moderator will be asked to make a new appointment to finish Mr. Siegenthaler's term. Ms. Bernardo, Ms. Young and Ms. Carey met with the Finance Committee earlier in the evening to review the administrative budget and to answer questions on long-term projects. The Community Preservation Coalition is hosting an event at the State House to recognize individuals who have contributed to the CPA and to meet with state legislators. The event will be held on January 14th at 10:30 AM. Ms. Bernardo will try to attend.

Proposal Review: The members reviewed the current projects and discussed two possible projects for eligibility.

FY2014-1 Ridge Hill Boardwalk and Bridge Replacement: Mr. Gluesing will be the liaison for this project and will contact Conservation Commission Chair Lisa Standley for an update since the project was first discussed in the fall.

FY2014-3 Town Common: Ms. Young and Mr. Warner will serve as liaisons. Mr. Boder checked on the historic status of the Common and stated that it is on the National Register in the Town Hall/Town Common district. Mr. Warner will get details on the downtown improvements project which is a separate project.

FY2014-4 Memorial Park: Discussed later in the meeting.

FY2014-5 Vital Records: Mr. Foster is the liaison to this project. Mr. Retzky served as liaison for the prior project for Town Clerk records and shared his list of questions/answers with Mr. Foster. Mr. Foster has left a message with the Town Clerk to schedule a meeting.

FY2014-6 Purchase of Land: No parcel is currently under review.

<u>Determination of Eligibility:</u>

FY2014-7 Cricket Field Building: At the December meeting, Mr. Retzky asked if the CPC would accept a request after the December 1st deadline for the design funds to renovate the Cricket Field building. The CPC asked that an application be filed for their review and a decision on whether to accept the late application. The project has been on the capital improvement plan as well as the long-range plan for the CPC. The consensus was that the request outlined an important project but not one that was an emergency, so that it should be filed for future consideration. **Mr. Gluesing made a motion not to accept the application for the design funds for the Cricket Field building for review for the May 2014 Annual Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Young. There were 5 votes in favor of the motion, 2 votes in opposition, and 1 member abstained from voting. The motion passed.**

<u>Next Steps:</u> Ms. Bernardo asked the liaisons to meet with the proponents. Ms. Carey asked if the Town Manager could be on the January 22nd agenda to update the board on the administrative funds request for the conservation restriction and to discuss the Town Common and possibly Memorial Park projects. Mr. Foster and Mr. Gluesing will coordinate with the proponents on their schedule for presenting to the CPC.

<u>Needham Community Preservation Plan Update</u>: Ms. Carey will send the subcommittee members an updated draft of the plan. Once the subcommittee has reviewed and made additional changes, the full board will review and comment. A final draft will be presented to the public, possibly at the public hearing scheduled for presentation of the projects for the May Town Meeting, tentatively scheduled for March 12, 2014.

<u>Minutes: December 11, 2013:</u> Mr. Gluesing made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2013 meeting. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and it was passed.

FY2014-4 Memorial Park: Ms. Bernardo welcomed DPW Superintendent of Parks and Forestry Ed Olsen and explained that the members had not determined if the project was eligible for CPC funding at its last meeting due to some additional questions. Mr. Olsen explained the flow of water during the extreme rain storms and how there isn't enough infrastructure to capture the flow for the "100 year storms" that have happened about five times in the past three years. The concept is to remediate the soils to allow for more drainage, and provide a drainage system to direct water to the storm drains. Mr. Foster asked what the cost to remediate was after the storms. Mr. Olsen said that he did additional maintenance on the park, beyond what is done at others, to try and keep the surface permeable and prepared for these storms. He estimated about $10,000 was spent annually from his operating budget for this purpose. Mr. Gluesing noted the importance of determining whether this was a capital improvement or just a maintenance project to fix a problem from the recent renovation. Ms. Young noted that the same problem could occur at other athletic fields and that it could just be a design error from the renovation. Mr. Warner asked if repairs were needed in the High School parking lot to keep the water from flowing down the hillside. Mr. Crossen noted that the project request was for just the athletic fields. He suggested that protecting the park space made it an eligible project. Ms. Young asked if the fields could handle the water in regular storms. Mr. Olsen explained that the heavy use of

Memorial Park compacted the soils more than what is found at most parks, so even with regular rain storms, the compaction is too great to allow for the rain to infiltrate. Ms. Bernardo asked why the current soil was an issue. Mr. Olsen believes that it needs to have more sand in the mixture to allow for the flow, and Mr. Retzky noted that the subsurface had not been remediated in the renovation and could also be a reason that the water doesn't flow properly. Mr. Boder asked what would happen if the storm drains could not take the additional flow of water? Mr. Gluesing explained that the Town would have to fund those improvements, but that any work at the street would not be CPA eligible. Mr. Gluesing reviewed the chart of acceptable projects so that the members could see if any of the categories seemed to match the project. Ms. Young stated that the project sounded as if it was a maintenance project that should be funded through the operating budget. **Mr. Foster made a motion that this proposal was eligible for CPA funding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Crossen. There were five votes in favor and three opposed. The motion passed.**

Mr. Crossen will serve as liaison to the project. Ms. Bernardo asked the members to send their questions to Ms. Carey so she can combine all the questions.

Adjournment: Mr. Gluesing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Mr. Crossen seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, Staff Liaison