



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Committee on Parks and Recreation Meeting Monday, June 26, 2023 at 5:00 PM City Council Office

The Committee convened on June 26, 2023 at 5:00 pm in the City Council Office. Present were Councilors Tony Palomba, chair, Lisa Feltner, vice-chair, and Caroline Bays, secretary. Also present was Dennis Duff, member of the Community Preservation Committee.

The purpose of the meeting was to interview Dennis Duff for reappointment to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire on February 1, 2026.

Councilor Feltner asked Mr. Duff why he wanted to serve on the CPC. Mr. Duff explained he had a long history working on boards in town and had a lot of experience that was relevant to the development in town such as working on the Watertown Redevelopment Authority, where he played a crucial role in who developed the Arsenal and helped to put 156 units of housing in the east end. He knows Watertown's past and wants to make the city better. He felt, given his long history serving on boards and commissions for the city, that he had the experience necessary to make decisions about where CPC funds would be best spent.

Councilor Palomba questioned his rationale for his vote against the Nichols St. project. Mr. Duff said he voted against the housing because he wanted housing on Templeton Parkway and hoped for more housing on the East End. He was also worried about how far Nichols is from public transit, but Mr. Duff added that he will support it when it comes back next year, given that it will be moving forward.

Councilor Palomba asked why he did not vote for Mark Krackiewicz and Jon Bockian as chair and vice chair of the committee. Mr. Duff felt that there should have been more movement and different ideas. Councilor Palomba also asked if the committee was working towards affordable housing. Mr. Duff said he really wants to see a good proposal which he could support. He felt they were not getting the quality of grant applications he wanted and felt the need to increase awareness in the community about what can be done.

Councilor Feltner made a motion to recommend that the City Council confirm Dennis Duff for reappointment to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire on February 1, 2026. Councilor Bays seconded. The motion passed 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Committee on Parks and Recreation Meeting
Monday, July 17, 2023 at 5:00 PM
City Council's Office

The Committee convened on July 17, 2023 at 5:00 pm in the City Council Office. Present were Councilors Tony Palomba, chair, Lisa Feltner, vice-chair, and Caroline Bays, secretary. Also present was Mark Krackiewicz, member of the Community Preservation Committee.

The purpose of the meeting was to interview Mark Krackiewicz for reappointment to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire on February 1, 2026.

Mr. Krackiewicz feels that after two terms the Community Preservation Committee is beginning to get a pipeline of projects and feels that several of the projects currently in planning will come before them again for financing for the construction phase. He said they amended the process so that if you are approved for a planning process you can get the construction funding more quickly outside of the regular cycle.

He hopes that when the affordable housing trust finds property the CPC can help to fund it and CPC members have been building a relationship with members of the trust with the hope that their continued cooperation and communication will result in a good housing project.

The CPC is beginning the application process now and they are looking at eligibility forms this week. Tony expressed concern about how friendly the committee is to those coming before them. Mark said they are bound by ordinance as to what they can do so they can't fund projects unless they meet the legal requirements.

Mr. Krackiewicz, asked councilors to be on the look out for possible projects as well as for possible future CPC committee members.

Councilor Feltner made a motion to recommend that the City Council confirm Mark Krackiewicz for reappointment to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire on February 1, 2026. Councilor Palomba seconded. The motion passed 3-0

The committee adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Report submitted by Caroline Bays