



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Community Preservation Committee

Remote via Zoom

Mark Krackiewicz, Chair
Jason Cohen, Vice Chair
Jonathan Bockian
Bob DiRico
Dennis J. Duff
Allen Gallagher
Jamie O'Connell
Elodia Thomas
Matthew Walter

Meeting Minutes: Thursday, February 17, 2022, held remotely via Zoom at 7PM.

Committee Members Present: Mark Krackiewicz, Chair; Jason Cohen, Vice Chair; Jon Bockian; Bob DiRico; Dennis J. Duff; Allen Gallagher; Jamie O'Connell; and Elodia Thomas.

Others Present: Lanae Handy, Community Preservation Coordinator; Joyce Kelly, Watertown Historical Society; Will Twombly, Spokeshave Design; Andrew Haines, Andrew Haines Paintings; Elise Loukas, Watertown Historical Commission; Susan Steele, Watertown Historical Commission; Michael Lara, Watertown Housing Authority Marsha Lenhoff; Margie Wayne; Jim Bensinger; Ernesta Krackiewicz; Barbara Ruskin; and Michael Albano.

1. Call to Order

Mark Krackiewicz called the meeting to order at 7PM and stated the meeting was being held remotely according to the Act extending the Governor's Emergency Order and waiving certain provisions of Open Meeting Law. Mark then requested a roll call and Lanae Handy called the roll.

2. CPA Project Presentation

A. City Hall 1630 & 1930 Geographical Paintings

Joyce Kelly of the Watertown Historical Society provided background on the two geographical paintings, including a description of the resources and their installation date. Joyce acknowledged the artist was still unknown and that she and Marilynne Roach were attempting to identify the painter. They may be able to identify the painter through the City Hall's architect, R. Clipston Sturgis, whose notebooks are kept at the Boston Athenaeum. Joyce detailed the areas depicted on the paintings and commented on the fruits, vegetables, and flowers bordering the paintings. She also outlined the damage to the paintings as the images were shared on screen, noting that the paintings would be cleaned, and painting details would be reconstructed. In concluding her presentation, Joyce stated signs would be installed within the top rails by the center posts of the barriers proposed to protect the paintings. Mark enumerated some of the proposed restoration components, including consolidation of the panels and paint film along with filling of holes and damaged edges.

Andrew Haines, the project frame conservator described his proposed process for rehabilitating the frames of the paintings. He lamented the inability to find a local brass fabricator to replace missing elements of the frames. To replace 3 missing frame sections, he proposed using wooden moldings. Andrew would add metal leaf gilt to a sanded and polished gesso surface matching the appearance of the existing brass frame elements. Andrew suggested he may be able to make a complete frame by combining frame sections from the two paintings. He would clean the brass frame and make the replica darker to duplicate the shade of brass as it tarnishes. Elodia asked if the brass should be sealed. Andrew said he would seal the brass and replica frames.

Allen asked about the budget and the sign options. Joyce stated the text had to be developed based on what she and Marilyn find in their research. She added that there were three options using different materials and that Will Tw

Twombly, the barrier fabricator suggested using a fourth option—dibond. Will described the material as a powder coated aluminum skin with a polyethylene core that could directly hold printed inks. He would make brackets fastened to each barrier and attach signage angled at 30 degrees behind the top rail.

Jamie recommended checking with the Department of Transportation for aerial photographs of fly overs from the 1930s. She will forward a link. Jason asked about whether the Historical Society had investigated raising funds for the project from private donations. Joyce pointed out that the work to adopt the CPA in Watertown was a long undertaking and restoration of the City Hall paintings was part of the Historical Society's presentation in educating the public about preservation of historic resources related to CPA.

3. Committee Discussion - City Hall 1630 & 1930 Geographical Paintings

Mark asked for a motion to approve the project for submission to the City Council and to discuss conditions. He opened that discussion with conditions of maintenance of paintings as prescribed by the conservator and documentation of materials and method used for restoration (potentially archiving that information at the Historical Society). Joyce added that she agreed and would photo-document the process. Elodia advocated asking the WCA-TV to videotape aspects of the project.

Related to conditions, Jamie asked how the city would perpetuate the maintenance. Joyce detailed how Jim Kane, Director of Public Buildings would operationalize and document maintenance on a regular schedule. Jon stated that the city must be bound to perform maintenance and Barbara Ruskin mentioned the new Public Arts and Culture staff person may have a role. Elodia emphasized that the scope of the maintenance be outlined in a 5-year maintenance plan monitored by the Historical Society.

Jamie raised the need to protect the resource during transport and the restoration process. She put forth a need for the condition to return CPA funds expended if the resource is damaged or lost.

Lanae asked about including the grant award amount as part of the motion and reminded the CPC that Stuart Saginor conveyed the signage could be funded. Committee members agreed to include the cost of the signage in their recommendation.

Motion: Dennis moved to recommend to the City Council the total of \$33,000 in CPA funds for the City Hall Geographical Paintings project. Elodia seconded.

Vote: Elodia Thomas, Jamie O’Connell, Mark Krackiewicz, Allen Gallagher, Dennis J. Duff, Bob DiRico, Jason Cohen, and Jon Bockian voted in favor.

Jamie declared the project was a model for future applications. Mark commended Joyce on the project and forging the CPA program’s first public private partnership.

He then summarized the conditions of the CPA funding award discussed.

- Develop a maintenance plan following the recommendations of the conservator and monitor maintenance performed by the city.
- Document the preservation materials and methods and archive that information.
- Restrict the disposition, alteration, relocation, removal, or sale of the paintings.
- Require the custodians of the paintings demonstrate proof of insurance to recompense the city for loss of CPA funds.

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mark stated that he and Jason would like to run for another term as chair and vice chair.

Motion: Allen Gallagher moved to nominate Mark Krackiewicz as Chair of the CPC for the term of another year. Elodia seconded the motion.

Vote: Jon Bockian, Jason Cohen, Elodia Thomas, Jamie O’Connell, Allen Gallagher, and Bob DiRico voted in favor. Dennis J. Duff voted present.

Motion: Allen Gallagher moved to nominate Jason Cohen as Vice Chair of the CPC for the term of another year. Dennis J. Duff seconded the motion.

Vote: Elodia Thomas, Jon Bockian, Bob DiRico, Dennis J. Duff, Allen Gallagher, Mark Krackiewicz, and Jamie O’Connell voted in favor. Jason Cohen voted present.

5. Acceptance of 2022-2-3 CPC Minutes

Mark asked if there were changes to the minutes and mentioned he had an addition. There were three requested changes. 1. Add to last paragraph on page two, “Mark hopes the final design could allow more light in the common areas. 2. On page two, third paragraph, change “Given how many years had already been spent on the project...” to “Given how many years the property has been vacant, the time should be taken to properly vet the project and pursue multiple funding sources.” 3. Correct Jon’s name wherever it’s spelled John.

Motion: Dennis moves to accept the minutes with the proposed changes and Elodia seconded.

Vote: Elodia Thomas, Jamie O’Connell, Mark Krackiewicz, Allen Gallagher, Dennis J. Duff, Bob DiRico, Jason Cohen, and Jon Bockian voted in favor.

6. New Business

Mark mentioned that several committee members were in favor of hiring an affordable housing consultant. He recommended forming a small subcommittee to interview subjects. Dennis asked for Lanae to supply resumes of potential housing consultants.

At the closing of the meeting, Elodia mentioned several people have asked when in-person meeting would resume. Additionally, Jon proposed publicizing the approval of

the City Hall painting project and Dennis suggested doing a press release. Lastly, Mark stated he assumed that funding recommendations would be sent to the City Council in a batch and wondered about sending the paintings recommendation first. Elodia advised asking Mark Sideris about the City Council's schedule and preference.

7. Adjournment

Motion: Dennis moved to adjourn the meeting and Jamie seconded.

Vote: Bob DiRico, Jamie O'Connell, Elodia Thomas, Mark Krackiewicz, Jon Bockian, Dennis J. Duff, Jason Cohen, and Allen Gallagher voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12PM