



Town of Watertown Community Preservation Committee

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COMMITTEE MEMBER

Elodia Thomas, Chair
Jonathan Bockian
Jason Cohen
Bob DiRico
Dennis J. Duff
Mark Krackiewicz
Allen Gallagher
Maria Rose
Susan Steele

Minutes: Thursday, November 21, 2019, Town Council Chamber, 7:00 - 8:35 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Jason Cohen, Bob DiRico, Dennis Duff, Allen Gallagher, Mark Krackiewicz, Maria Rose, Susan Steele. **Absent:** Jon Bockian, Elodia Thomas

Others Present: Lanae Handy, Leo Martin

1. Call to order

Bob DiRico, Interim Chair, called the meeting of the Community Preservation Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. Bob DiRico asked the CPC if they agreed to waive the presentation and approval of the minutes until the December meeting. All were in favor.

2. Discuss adjusting timeline/calendar for Phases I-III of the CPC Plan

Bob DiRico started the discussion by saying that Lanae Handy, Gideon Schreiber, Elodia Thomas, and he had spoken with Jenn Goldson and Anna Callahan. He further stated that the conversation went well, and that Jenn Goldson and Anna Callahan were understanding of, and responsive to the committee's disappointment with the flyer and concerns about the timeline. Jenn Goldson and Anna Callahan indicated that they were willing to adjust the plan schedule forward by a month. Bob DiRico asked if there were any comments. Maria Rose asked if the CPC would be meeting with Jenn Goldson and Anna Callahan. Bob DiRico responded that they were willing to meet with the CPC. Bob DiRico added that the December 2019 meeting had been changed from December 19, 2019 to December 12, 2019, due to the holiday.

Discussion turned to the first public forum scheduled for January 15, 2020. Bob DiRico said that the meeting format would depend on the number of participants: For 40-60 participants, the format would include a presentation, Q&A session, and breakout session of four to six groups, Jason Cohen commented that the format might not be known until the public forum starts. Lanae Handy suggested it would be something to track on-line. Susan Steele suggested consulting with Nancy Hammett of Kitchen Table Conversations. Jason Cohen described his surprise that there were only 30-40 people who attended a community meeting at Watertown High School about the school project, and that they were trying to figure out how to generate more interest going forward. An audience

member commented that there are lots of meetings in town and the same people attend most of the meetings. Maria Rose commented that the CPC would be happy with 30 to 40 attendees, and it might make for a more productive meeting. Susan Steele asked Lanae Handy for her thoughts. Lanae Handy answered that it depends on the time of year and that she wouldn't expect high attendance in January, especially when there are a lot of other meetings going on. Susan Steele suggested that it might be helpful to look at the informal community group calendar for outreach. She also wondered whether mid-July was a good time for a public hearing. Maria Rose commented that she wondered the same thing. Bob DiRico said that the CPC won't know that until they get there but suggested that the CPC go with the timing and then adjust it, if necessary. Maria Rose shared her concern that the middle of summer is less than ideal. Dennis Duff commented that it is better to go too slow than too fast. Jason Cohen asked if there would be a regular CPC meeting on January 16, 2020. Bob DiRico said he did not believe so, but he could not answer that question right now. Susan Steele said she believed there would be a public forum in January, but not a regular meeting. Jason Cohen said the CPC meeting was on the town calendar for January 16, 2020. Bob DiRico said that it had been agreed to leave all meetings on the calendar and reschedule, as needed. Allen Gallagher asked if he should pencil in January 16, 2020 for a regular CPC meeting, and Bob DiRico answered that he should.

3. Continue discussion regarding community engagement, potential formats, and committee participation and preparation for the first Public Forum, date TBD

Bob DiRico started the discussion by saying that the date determined for the first public forum is January 15, 2020. Allen Gallagher asked if the public forum will be held at Tufts, and Bob DiRico answered, yes. Dennis Duff asked about stakeholders and influencers and whether or not public officials would be invited, and, if so, would it be separately or with public. Mark Krackiewicz asked about the draft of the resources profile and CPA fact sheet, per Susan Steele's suggestion. Maria Rose said it looks to be included with the information for the public forum. Susan Steele stressed that the information is important and should not take too much time or effort to produce. Bob DiRico asked the CPC if JM Goldson should attend the December 2019 meeting. Maria Rose said, yes, and that she thinks it's important in preparation of the public forum. Lanae Handy mentioned meeting with JM Goldson would be necessary in order to determine format and prepare facilitators. Bob DiRico wondered if JM Goldson should be invited to the December 12, 2019 meeting or a meeting before the public forum. Mark Krackiewicz asked if the CPC could expect additional material by January 15, 2020. Bob DiRico answered that he assumes that JM Goldson would be bringing the materials.

4. Discuss and develop list of potential stakeholders/influencers for Focus Groups dates, TBD

Bob DiRico stated that the focus groups are scheduled for March 12, 2020, in the morning, and March 13, 2020, in the evening. He added that Gideon Schreiber had provided a comprehensive list and Lanae Handy had a list from the Kitchen Table Conversations list, and that the CPC needed to start looking at these lists and adding to them. Susan Steele responded that she has information to add to the lists. Mark Krackiewicz asked how large the focus groups would be. Bob DiRico answered that it all depends on outreach, but possibly 5-10 per discipline. Maria Rose commented that projected attendance is speculation, and that it was her understanding that there would be separate focus groups for each discipline. Mark Krackiewicz said his understanding was that focus groups would be comprised of key stakeholders/influencers with some general public, and his vision was

that there would be some limit to people with relative experience/expertise. Dennis Duff disagreed with Mark Krackiewicz and stated that the CPC and its activities are paid for by the citizens of Watertown. Susan Steele agreed that you can't keep people out of the focus groups. Maria Rose clarified the focus groups versus the open forums and stated that she didn't believe that Mark Krackiewicz intended that anyone should be excluded. Jason Cohen added that we don't always know about people's expertise and that we should encourage anyone with interest to attend. Mark Krackiewicz said that people with interest should be targeted. Susan Steele agreed with Dennis Duff's comment that this is all paid for by taxpayer money and all citizens should be included. Bob DiRico summarized that the open forum should be first and then stakeholders could be targeted for the focus groups, but that both would be open to everyone. Lastly, Bob DiRico suggested that the CPC look at Stewart Saginor's website and added that Jenn Goldson has written many of the articles on it.

5. Discuss suggestion of small working groups to address discrete tasks

Bob DiRico suggested groups of three or less CPC members to meet and drill down on certain tasks, in an effort to lighten the overall load of the CPC. Jason Cohen agreed that it would be better to tackle tasks in small, focused groups. Susan Steele asked Lanae Handy if she would be involved with all small working groups, and she answered, yes. Bob DiRico asked for volunteers for a small group to review the survey. Mark Krackiewicz volunteered. Maria Rose suggested more definitive groups as opposed to single task groups. Suggestions included community engagement and communications. Susan Steele offered, as an example of something that might be useful in the future, Hingham's decision guidelines, protocols and procedures. Maria Rose volunteered for the working survey group. Bob DiRico stated that the CPC was in agreement to form small working groups to perform tasks, but that he would leave it for Elodia Thomas. Mark Krackiewicz commented that they needed to focus on the survey. Maria Rose suggested that it might be better to focus on tasks now and expand the groups later. Mark Krackiewicz said he thinks the housing questions on the survey were particularly weak. Allen Gallagher added that his area of expertise is low income/elderly housing and that is different from affordable housing, and he believes that the CPC needs more expertise regarding affordable housing. Susan Steele commented that she found some of the survey questions irrelevant and that the survey was too long. Maria Rose agreed with Allen Gallagher that the CPC needs more information on affordable housing, that it is a topic of interest to people, citing her attendance at a meeting where 130 people showed up, and that maybe they should do a focus group on that.

Bob DiRico took an opportunity to recognize Lanae Handy and welcome her to the CPC.

6. Authority, board, commission updates

Maria Rose reported that she presented the idea of acting as an educational source for the CPC to the Conservation Commission. She further reported that the Conservation Commission was very receptive to the idea and were more than willing to select areas to showcase, but that they would prefer to wait until spring, preferably June, when the weather is better.

Susan Steele reported that the Historical Commission is "into the weeds" on demo delays and working on how to make the process protective but not onerous.

Jason Cohen reported that the Planning Board is considering the potential rezoning of Galen Street, and that there are a large number of cases coming up, including the Doble Engineering site and the Coolidge Hill Road/Arlington Street project.

7. New Business

Bob DiRico reported that Marcia Ciro will present logo and flyer concepts at the December 12, 2019 meeting. Maria Rose wondered what kind of message that sends to JM Goldson, as CPC consultant. Bob DiRico responded that it was discussed with Jenn Goldson and Anna Callahan during the previously mentioned phone conversation. Dennis Duff added that JM Goldson was going to charge the CPC \$1,600 for a logo design. Bob DiRico added that Marcia Ciro had generously offered to help the CPC with a logo and flyer because Elodia Thomas's calls to Watertown High School to discuss a logo contest had gone unanswered. Jason Cohen offered that he may have an inroad to the art department at Watertown High School, for future reference.

Susan Steele presented "Decision Guidelines" from the Town of Hingham, as a clear and good example for when the CPC gets to that point.

Mark Krackiewicz suggested discussing the next meeting at the end of a current meeting, starting now. Bob DiRico asked what he would like to discuss at the next meeting. Mark Krackiewicz responded that he would like to see the JM Goldson resource profiles draft, CPA fact sheet draft, survey draft, and flyer draft. Maria Rose said that she would like to add a line item to discuss preparation for the first public forum. Susan Steele suggested the idea of CPC members bringing a member from their respective commissions to the public forum, who could serve as back-up experts.

8. Adjournment

- Dennis Duff made a motion to adjourn. Allen Gallagher seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes Transcribed by Anne Korte