



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Community Preservation Committee

Mark Krackiewicz, Chair
Jon Bockian, Vice Chair
Bob DiRico
Dennis J. Duff
Allen Gallagher
Abigail Hammett
Jamie O'Connell
Elodia Thomas
Matthew Walter

Minutes of CPC Meeting Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 7 PM, held remotely via Zoom.

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

Absent: Abigail Hammett

Others Present: Lanae Handy, Community Preservation Coordinator; Joyce Kelly, Historical Society of Watertown; Margie Wayne; Joan Gumbleton; and Linda Scott.

1. Call to Order

Mark Krackiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM noting the Governor's executive order to extend the suspension of certain open meeting law provisions.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

A. 2024-2-15-Draft-CPC-Minutes

Motion: Allen Gallagher moved to approve the 2024-2-15 CPC Minutes as written and Elodia Thomas seconded the motion.

Vote: Mark Krackiewicz, Elodia Thomas, Jamie O'Connell, Dennis Duff, Allen Gallagher, Jon Bockian, and Matt Walter voted in favor. Bob DiRico was not present for the 2-15-24 meeting.

3. Committee Discussion

A. Approval of CPA FY2024 Funding Recommendation

Mark asked for suggested changes to the Funding Recommendation document.

Mark and Jamie provided written recommendations for the Walker Pond project. Mark read them and the proposed written changes are attached to these minutes. Jamie added the following phrase to two of Mark's suggested edits. On page 3, 3rd bulleted sentence, after pond health, add, "terrestrial ecological function, and wildlife habitat." On page 5, 5th bulleted sentence, after pond health, add "terrestrial ecological function, and wildlife habitat."

Elodia agreed with Mark about better delineation when new project sections begin. She suggested removing the bold on the left column of the table that defines the beginning of a new project. Elodia added some line on the Browne House and Scots Fence projects were dropped down.

Elodia commented that a community member suggested providing a graph of the 10 ecological tasks and a timeline of when they should be performed. She said Steve also committed to covering the cost of some of the ecological studies that needed to occur before CPA funding was appropriated by the City Council. Elodia didn't know if Lanae had received a response. Jamie pointed out that the vernal pool study may need to be done very soon. She proposed the condition that the public input process should begin after ecological studies that would the impact design had been completed.

Dennis emphasized there should be enough information available to the public so they could provide informed input.

Mark suggested language for the condition "Provide a revised timeline integrating the conceptual design with the ecological studies for CPC review."

Elodia suggested posting what the studies reveal on the CPC web page to engage the community interest. Jamie was concerned that the consultant needed to collect data, analyze it and submit a final report. Therefore, they may not want to release results preliminarily.

Jon proposed scheduling public input after ecological studies have been completed through adding to an existing bullet point. Jamie and Lanae found that to be too long and thought a separate condition would be best.

Lanae stated any studies that would occur in early spring before funding would be available would be done next year. Jamie and Elodia based their understanding of when ecological tasks would begin on the February 15, 2024, meeting. Jamie remarked that was why a revised timeline was necessary and to specify which costs Steve could cover. Either he could pay for early studies and perform them now or wait until next year and delay the public input process.

Matt stated that the timeline was up to Steve and either Steve would cover the cost of some ecological tasks or wait until next year to begin the public input process.

Motion: Allen made a motion to include the wording suggested by Jon Bockian suggested and all the other changes recorded by Lanae. Dennis seconded the motion.

Vote: Matt Walter, Jon Bockian, Bob DiRico, Elodia Thomas, Jamie O'Connell, Dennis J. Duff, and Mark Krackiewicz.

Mark stated his recommended conditions for the Saltonstall Park project that are attached to these minutes.

Motion: Matt moved to adopt Mark's conditions for the Saltonstall Park project and Jon Bockian seconded the motion.

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

Mark commented on Lanae's proposed condition for the Friends of Mt. Auburn Cemetery to provide evidence of raising the entire project budget. He proposed the following language to replace a specific budget figure, "Prior to the release of CPC funds, provide a revised project budget based on a valid bid..."

Matt added that the condition should not specify all the funds must be raised and that FMAC should be able to use their own funds as well. Lanae recommended including “cash in hand” as the end of the condition.

Motion: Jon moved to the use Mark’s revised language with “cash in hand” to the end of the condition. Jamie seconded the motion.

Vote: Matt Walter, Jamie O’Connell, Mark Krackiewicz, Elodia Thomas, Allen Gallagher, and Bob DiRico voted in favor. Dennis J. Duff voted against.

4. Adjourn

Motion: Dennis J. Duff moved to adjourn, and Matt Walter seconded the motion.

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

Adjournment: 8:01 PM

Attachments

1. [Draft FY2024 CPA Funding Recommendation](#)
2. [Proposed Changes to FY2024 CPA Funding Recommendation](#)