

TOWN OF BELMONT
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC)

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: January 10, 2024
TIME: 3:12 PM

Minutes: Wednesday, September 13, 2023, Zoom Public Meeting

Present: Elizabeth Dionne, Margaret Velie, David Lind, Anne Marie Mahoney, Juliet Jenkins, Aaron Pikcilingis, Michael Chesson, Gloria Leipzig

Other: Matthew Haskell, Patrice Garvin, Brandon Fitts, Dave Blazon, Glenn Clancy, Lucia Gates, Holly Muson, Larry Link

Absent: Carol Berberian,

Elizabeth Dionne called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

I) Off-Cycle CPA Applications

a. Community Path

- i. Elizabeth turned the discussion over to Glenn Clancy and Holly Muson. The MBTA changed their mandate to the Town for tunnel construction from tunnel jacking, and has now decided that the Town must utilize the cut-and-cover option for creating the tunnel under the tracks for the Community Path. This will lower the overall construction costs for the project, but it has created a need to redo that portion of the design. Holly added that this option for the tunnel will allow the Town to increase the width of the tunnel and that by doing this additional design the project is on track to be completed on time. Other options for additional design funding are being pursued at the state level, but no funding has been granted at this time.
- ii. Juliet suggested making an FAQ for the Community Path and include a description of funding to date and assumed funding going forward. Other committee members agreed that a brief description of the project and including a timeline would be beneficial, because this project has been in the works for a long time.
- iii. Aaron asked if ARPA could still be used if this CPC application fails. He also asked if we reached out to MBTA to see if they would provide funding, because this update is through no fault of the Town. Glenn answered that ARPA is under consideration and that the MBTA has been pursued, but it is unlikely that the Town will receive any funding from them.
- iv. Aaron moved to find the additional design funds for Community Path project eligible for CPC funding. Seconded by Margaret. The motion was approved unanimously: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.
- v. Juliet moved to find the project eligible for off-cycle funding. Seconded by Aaron. The motion was approved unanimously: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

b. Town Hall Retaining Wall

- i. Dave Blazon outlined the project, describing the location and the urgency of the need. Dave said that the wall has been secured to make it through this winter. This funding would be used to hire an engineer to discover the root cause of the problem and make a plan to mitigate it and reinstall the retaining wall.
 - ii. Juliet asked if pictures could be included in the final application. Dave stated that he had photos and would update the committee with them tomorrow.
 - iii. Michael moved to find the project as submitted in the application eligible for CPA funding. Seconded by Margaret. The motion was approved unanimously: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.
 - iv. Juliet moved to find the project eligible for off-cycle funding. Seconded by David. The motion was approved unanimously: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.
- c. Underwood Pool
 - i. Brandon Fitts outlined the project. The Underwood Pool is in need of some replacement parts and the pool cannot open next spring without these replacements. Elizabeth added that the CPA cannot pay for repairs, but the CPC will be running these replacement parts by the Coalition to determine their eligibility. Some of the items are that chlorine sensors need to be replaced (they cannot be repaired) and a pool cover is needed for the family pool area to prevent further damage. There is also some work that needs to be done to the liner of the pool, but that would not be CPA eligible.
 - ii. Anne Marie noted that the pool is only 8 years old and asked if it is expected that more replacements and repairs are expected to be needed in the near future. Brandon stated that he would create a list of projects that could be expected in the near future.
 - iii. Juliet suggested that the Underwood Pool needs a “Friends of” group to help to fund upkeep at the pool, as the pool does seem like it will need minor replacements and updates as the years go on.
 - iv. Aaron moved to find the Underwood Pool project as submitted in the application eligible pending review of the Coalition. Seconded by Michael. The motion was approved unanimously: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.
 - v. Aaron moved to find the project eligible for off-cycle funding. Seconded by Gloria. The motion was approved unanimously: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.
- d. Chenery Park and Field Study
 - i. This project has been in the pipeline for a few years and, now that the new Middle and High School is complete and the modulars have been removed from the Chenery, it is the right time to look at this area. This funding would be to do a study on this location to evaluate the needs for this park and to create a plan that fits the most needs. This study would lead to another application in a year for design and engineering of the project, and then the year following the design work would be the construction.
 - ii. Michael moved to find the project as submitted in the application eligible. Seconded by David. The motion was approved: 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1

- Abstentions (Juliet).
- iii. David moved to find the project eligible for off-cycle funding. Seconded by Michael. The motion was approved: 5 Yeas, 0 Nays, 3 Abstentions (Juliet, Aaron, and Anne Marie)
- e. PQ Park Turf Study
- i. Aaron moved find project as revised to be more general in the application eligible pending review of the Coalition. Seconded by Gloria. The motion was unanimously approved: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.
 - ii. Aaron moved to find the project eligible for off-cycle funding and provide provisional recommendation to Town meeting subject to receipt of a final application in October. Seconded by David. The motion was approved: 6 Yeas, 1 Nay (Margaret), 1 Abstentions (Anne Marie).

II) Community Path Update

- a. Gloria brought forward that the Belmont Housing Authority has raised concerns with how the Community Path will impact their property at Belmont Village, as they are an abutter. The Housing Authority is in favor of the path, but is looking to become more of an active member in the conversation. The Housing Authority is interested in the impacts the path may have on the Housing Authority property, especially as the Housing Authority is looking to renovate their own property.

III) Invoice Approval

- a. Michael moved to approve an invoice for Annual Membership to the CPA Coalition for FY2024 in the amount of \$4,350. Seconded by Anne Marie. The motion was unanimously approved: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

Gloria moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24PM. Seconded by Juliet. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matt Haskell