

TOWN OF BELMONT COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC)

Minutes: Wednesday, April 14, 2021, Zoom Public Meeting, 5:00PM
Present: Elizabeth Dionne, Margaret Velie, Michael Chesson, Gloria Leipzig, Stephen Pinkerton, Mark Paolillo
Other: Glen Castro, Betsy Lipson, Rachel Heller
Absent: David Kane, Andy Rojas, Natasha Klemek

Elizabeth Dionne called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Housing Trust Emergency Rental Assistance Program Presentation

Betsy Lipson gave an update. The \$100K approved at September Special Town Meeting 2020 is in addition to the \$250K approved at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting for Funds Set Aside project. The program covered three months of rent, with an additional fourth month of rent for qualifying households. Payments were directly paid to landlord. The Housing Trust worked closely with the program administrator from Metro West. Metro West administered similar programs for other towns. The program utilized breakdown as shared:

- 82 households utilized the program
- 25 household participated in the arrears program
- Total of 114 applicants
- Two-thirds of applicants below 30% of AMI
- 75% of the applicants lived in two bedroom homes

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DATE: May 13, 2021
TIME: 2:41 PM

Rachel Heller thanked the CPC for their support of the program. An additional \$1,130 was spent beyond the appropriated \$350K. Metro West will absorb the additional expense of \$1,130. The additional expense incurred was because of the recently submitted applications.

Mark asked what happens after the rental assistance program funds runs out. Rachel stated Massachusetts has about \$400M in available funds for emergency rental assistance program. Mark asked could we do more to support renters. Rachel stated that we could add more to the affordable housing stock.

Elizabeth stated an application has been submitted to replenish the \$250K for development opportunities.

Status of Administrative Funds Requests for Master Plans

Michael gave an update. HDC plans to request the use of administrative funds for the historic database. Lisa Harrington asked could the HDC use administrative funds on a project or survey

to determine the use of McLean Barn. Elizabeth will follow up with Stuart Saginor on the use of administrative funds.

Project updates for open projects

FY17

Preserving Belmont's Original Vital Records and Digitizing Belmont's Town Meeting Records – Elizabeth received an email from Ellen Cushman stating the delay for both the projects. Ellen is requesting funding extension to December 2021.

Motion to extend funding for Preserving Belmont's Original Vital Records and Digitizing Belmont's Town Meeting Records

Stephen moved to approve Preserving Belmont's Original Vital Records and Digitizing Belmont's Town Meeting Records funding extension to June 2022, passed unanimously. Second by Margaret.

FY18

Assessment and Project Redevelopment of Sherman Gardens and Belmont Village – Gloria gave an update. The Cambridge Housing Authority Planning Department is managing the project. A plan will be of both projects will be taken up at the May Housing Authority meeting.

FY19

McLean Barn Conditions Stabilization – Elizabeth received an email from Ellen Cushman regarding new problems and vandalism. The work has not been completed. Ellen will be working with Spencer & Vogt this spring. There is a balance of about \$12K. Ellen looks to spend down the available balance.

Construction of Grove Street Park Intergenerational Walking Path – Stephen gave an update. Jay Marcotte is holding back paying the vendor pending the tree condition.

FY20

Belmont Police Station – Michael will follow up with Michael Smith for an update of the police station project. Elizabeth is requesting any final report from the project sponsors.

Clay Pit Pond: Preservation and Restoration of Vegetation and Rock Meadow: Habitat Preservation Control of Non-native & Invasive Vegetation – Margaret gave an update. Mary Trudeau will be meeting with the contractor to reevaluate conditions after the unauthorized cutting there. Invasive removal is a three year project. The first year was completed in 2019. Elizabeth asked whether Mary needed additional funding because prices have changed due to the impact of COVID-19.

Motion to extend funding for Clay Pit Pond: Preservation and Restoration of Vegetation and Rock Meadow: Habitat Preservation Control of Non-native & Invasive Vegetation

Mark moved to approve the Clay Pit Pond: Preservation and Restoration of Vegetation and Rock Meadow: Habitat Preservation Control of Non-native & Invasive Vegetation funding extension to December 2023, passed unanimously. Second by Michael.

Other business

Update from Liaisons:

WC Update: Elizabeth gave an update. The Warrant Committee (WC) approved three of the four projects. The approved projects are as follows:

- Phase I – Consulting Services for Payson Park Renovation \$35,000
- Community Path Right of Way \$200,000
- Funds Set Aside to Belmont Housing Trust \$250,000

WC has not voted on the Tennis Court Expansion – Winn Brook. The committee is still waiting on the final report regarding the skating rink.

HDC Update: Michael shared that two HDC members resigned.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Castro