

Community Preservation Committee

Minutes – March 3, 2009

CPC met on March 3, 2009 at the Wellesley Police Station, Kingsbury Room

CPC Members Present: Kit Bowry, Brad Boyd, Jim Conlin, Rose Mary Donahue, Dona Kemp, Jack Morgan, Tony Parker, Helen Robertson

Guests: Barbara Searle (BOS), Neal Seaborn (NRC), Bob White (Trails Committee)

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Jack Morgan

Citizen Speak – no citizens addressed the committee

On February 25th the Advisory Committee voted to recommend unfavorable action to Town Meeting on two projects for which CPC has voted to take a funding request to Town Meeting. These projects are the Wellesley Housing Authority's request for a Barton Road Master Plan Study and NRC/Trails Committee's request for funding connected with the Newton Lower Falls Bridge project.

WHA – Barton Road Master Plan

The WHA Board has not yet met to discuss Advisory's unfavorable recommendation. It appears to CPC that they have three options. One would be to bring the request as is to Town Meeting. A second option would be to reposition the project and bring it back to CPC and Advisory for reconsideration before Town Meeting begins. A third option would be to withdraw the request. Tony Parker and others restated their view that the Town has a long standing commitment to affordable housing, and that as part of this commitment the Town created the WHA and transferred various Town properties, including Barton Road to the WHA. He also noted that there is a need for a broader community plan going forward for the area around Barton Road / Cedar Street / and Route 9. The CPC concluded that the WHA Board first needs to make a determination on how they want to go forward with this project and we will await word from them.

Newton Lower Falls Bridge

In light of Advisory's vote, CPC discussed under what conditions the proponents and CPC should/would move forward with the funding request for this project. Tony Parker pointed out that Advisory did not appear to have given weight to the history of multiple

Boards including rehabilitation of the Lower Falls Railroad Bridge in their long term plans, including Town-wide Comprehensive Plans and specific plans for Lower Falls. Jim Conlin noted that at least some of those plans may have been in the context of the creation of an accessible path from the bridge to the Riverside MBTA station. Rose Mary Donahue agreed to provide the Chair with copies of these plans. Helen Robertson reported that the Wellesley Historical Commission had reiterated its support for the preservation of the bridge.

It was decided that we would determine the CPC course forward on this project after receipt of the following:

1. more specific information from the NCR, specifically (1) a detailed list of the deliverables, (2) information on the identified funding sources for Phase II, (3) plans for improving the trails along the Charles River in the vicinity of this bridge
2. letters of support for the project from the following Boards: Historical Commission, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Recreation Commission
3. an opinion from Al Robinson regarding which CPC funding eligibility category(ies) best fits this project (Open Space, Recreation, Historical), which Town board should bring this project forward to Town Meeting, can CPC appropriate funding to itself

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10 PM.

Submitted by Kit Bowry and Jack Morgan